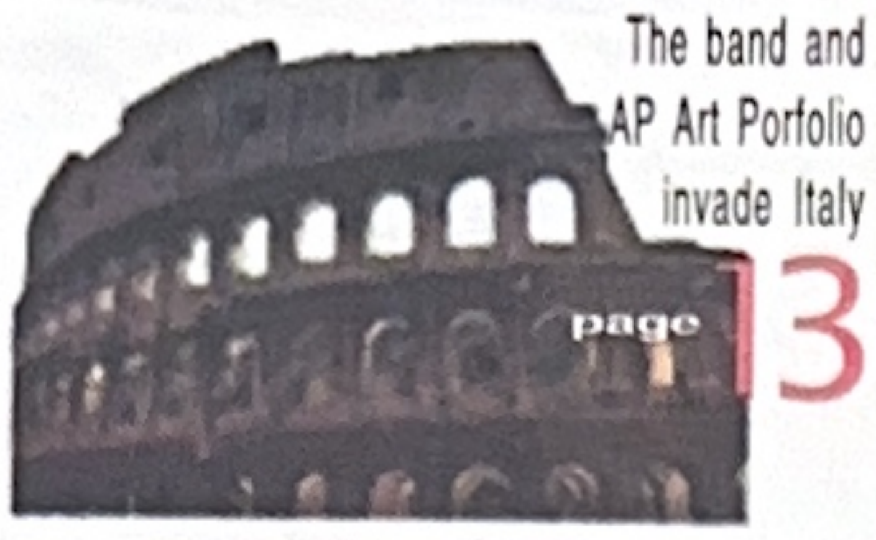


ROMAN HOLIDAY

The band and AP Art Porfolio invade Italy

page 13

The Shakerite

FOOLIN' AROUND

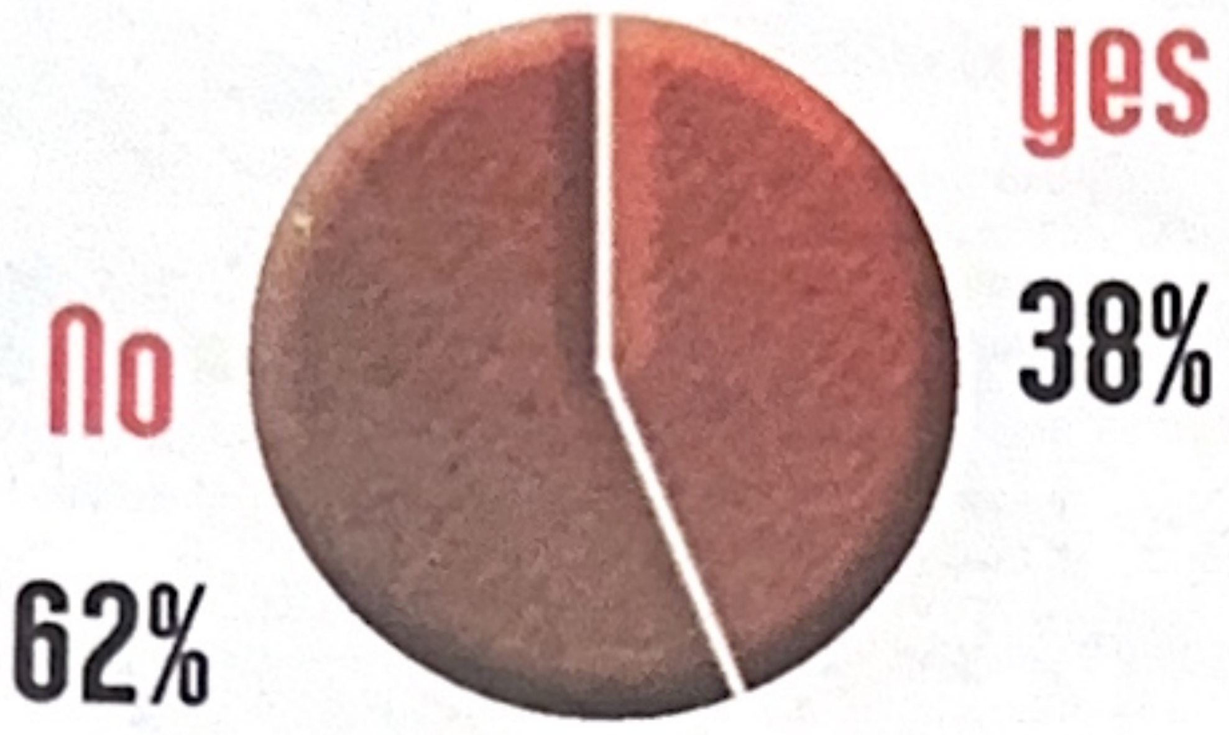
There's something fishy on this month's pulse pages!

page 257

March 24, 2004 · Volume 74 · Issue 7 · Shaker Heights High School · 15911 Aldersyde Drive · Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Safety message there, but do teens hear it?

Have you ever been in a car with someone under the influence of alcohol or drugs?



Scientific poll of 72 students with a margin of error +/- 12 percent. Shakerite staff members telephoned students.

• Social pressure hinders efforts to reduce risky behavior

By Renee Frantz
FOCUS EDITOR

Four years ago, school nurse Paula Dworkin launched a group called Students Against Destructive Decisions. According to Dworkin, initial turnout at the meetings was good and comprised many students who seemed sincerely interested in preventing destructive teen behavior.

However, when it came time for members to sign a "no use" contract stating that they would not use drugs or alcohol, the officers would not sign. This refusal prompted Dworkin to disband the group.

Adults continue to search for effective ways to communicate safety messages to teenagers. Whether addressing the dangers of driving, abuse of drugs and alcohol or any other sort of dangerous behavior, getting students to apply these messages to their lives through educational, legal or social means is a challenge.

The leading cause of permanent disability and death for teenagers in every industrialized nation is car accidents, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. There are about 2.5 million new teen drivers each year in North America alone, and more than 4,000 of these drivers die each year as a result of car crashes.

On Jan. 10, a fatal car accident killed Jenny Goldman, a passenger in a car with four other Shaker students. No evidence suggests drugs or alcohol played a role in the crash. However, police reports attribute the cause to speeding.

Ned Overbeke, who operates The Overbeke School of Driving, hopes to help teenagers

SEE **BEHAVIOR,** PAGE 4

> "When they are put in the situation . . . [kids] don't want to be seen as the motherly figure."
>
> Kate LeSueur
> junior

Same-sex marriages prompt legal challenge

Gay marriage timeline

Jan. 29 Cleveland Heights' domestic partner registry begins
Feb. 6 Ohio Gov. Robert Taft signs the state's Defense of Marriage Act
Feb. 12 San Francisco begins to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples
March 2 New Paltz, New York Mayor Jason West is charged with 19 criminal counts for wedding more than 20 same-sex couples
March 11 California Supreme Court orders San Francisco to stop wedding gay couples
May 17 Massachusetts will become first state to legally recognize gay marriages

By Lauren Weiss
COPY EDITOR

Location, location, location.

Recent controversy over gay marriages has made the decision about where to live even more important: in Massachusetts, gay couples will be able to marry by May, while in Ohio, that marriage will not be recognized.

Cleveland Heights/Shaker Heights

A domestic partnership registry opened Jan. 29 in Cleveland Heights. Fifty-six heterosexual and homosexual couples have already signed up even though the title has no legal benefits. It can, however, be used to convince an employer to offer partner benefits or let one partner see the other in a hospital.

After stating that he would enforce the registry even though he opposed it, Cleveland Heights City Councilman Jimmie Hicks, Jr. is now challenging the registry in court, saying it violates state law (see Ohio). A preliminary hearing is scheduled in March.

SEE **MARRIAGE,** PAGE 3

SANKOFA IN SILHOUETTE

Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

Shannon Ashford, a junior, takes center stage as the announcer of the Apollo Theater during the 1930s scene from the 2004 *Sankofa performance* Feb. 27 in the large auditorium. "It was really exciting to work with all the great people who were involved and to learn things about my culture that otherwise I wouldn't have known," Ashford said.

Team captains play two positions: peer and leader

By Becca Bonthius
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The old adage says a team is only as strong as its weakest link.

In reality, successful teams depend more heavily on their strongest members – captains.

The weeks preceding spring break mean tryouts and selection of team captains for spring sport athletes. This allows adequate team practice time before the start of the seasons during and shortly after spring break.

According to senior and two-year cross-country captain Brett Heeger, peer captains play a crucial role on sports teams. "Both the coach and the rest of the team rely on the captain for a certain amount of leadership, and without that leadership the team can really fall apart and it really hurts all the participants," Heeger said.

Softball coach James Schmidt chooses his captain "after they make the team but before they step onto the field." Schmidt, who is beginning his first year as a coach at Shaker, feels that it is best for the coach to select the captain based on her ability "to influence other members of the team in a positive way." However, he does think that athletic ability is an important factor to gain respect from teammates.

Head football coach David Sedmak shares this view. "You would hope the better players on your team would set a good example," he said. Sedmak believes that younger players "automatically" look up to, and model their behavior after, great players.

In addition to this leadership, men's lacrosse coach Craig Gallagher feels that captains must provide support between the coaches and players, have an enthusiastic and positive attitude, be dedicated to the sport and attend every game and practice. Gallagher considers Luke Antal ('03) to be a notable captain and an example of a

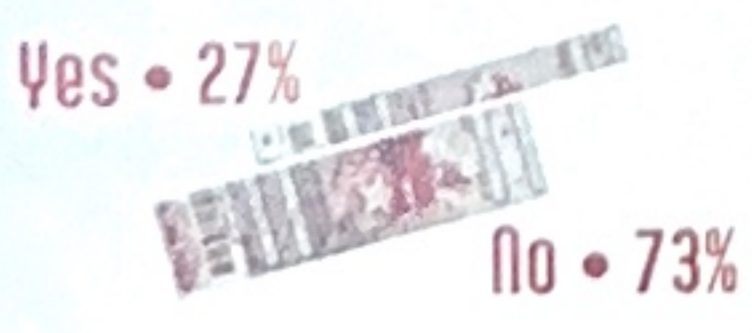
SEE **CAPTAIN,** PAGE 15

Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

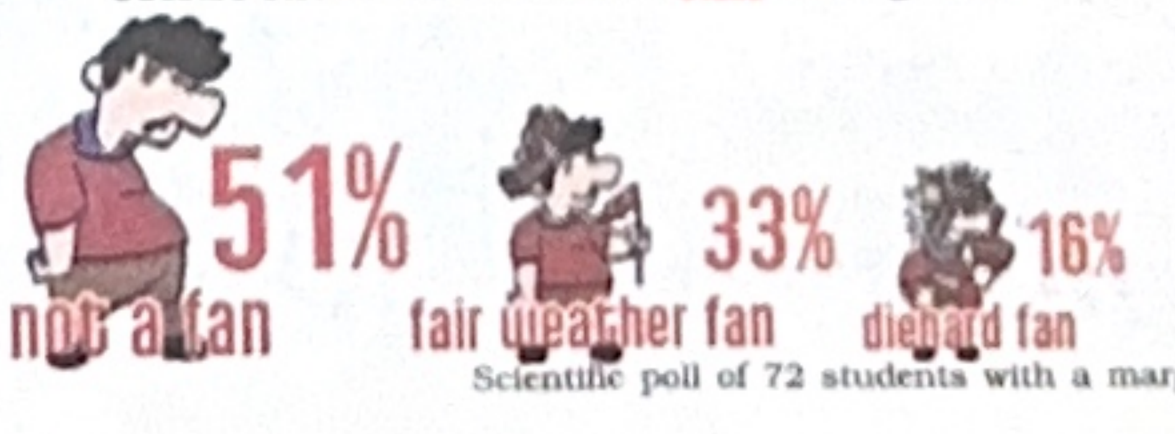
SENIOR MONICA RUZIC gives bunting pointers to sophomore Kate O'Gorman during softball practice March 12. Ruzic is one of three varsity softball captains this year.

On the Line

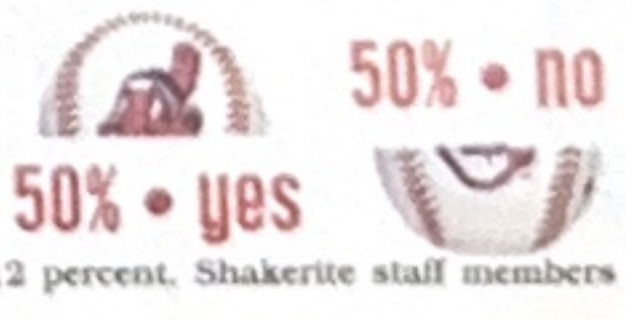
Did you go to a Cleveland Indians game last season?



What kind of Indians fan are you?



Do you plan on attending an Indians game this season?



Scientific poll of 72 students with a margin of error +/- 12 percent. Shakerite staff members telephoned students.

Monday 29

• Take the rapid downtown to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Special exhibit "Rock my Soul Black Legacy of Rock," features **black artists' contributions to rock 'n'roll**. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost: $20.

Tuesday 30

• Discover the **Picasso** deep inside of you by venturing to Hands On Pottery on Chagrin Blvd. across from Eaton Collection. You choose from a variety of plain sculptures, and then **design them according to your own artistic inspiration**. The staff is friendly and helpful, and you can contact them at (216) 292-4844

Wednesday 31

• Be your own food critic for the day and head down to the **West Side Market** for a yummy lunch. Built in 1912, the partly open-air market at the corner of West 25th and Lorain in Ohio City offers an outrageously wide variety of food, including **Pierogie Palace**. Closed Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call (216) 664-3386.

Thursday 1

• Saran Wrap on the toilet seat, black ink on the binoculars. **Its April Fool's, fool!** Run wild around the city, playing pranks on all of your closest friends, their parents. Nothing says funny like **your grandfather with black rings** around his eyes.

Friday 2

• Work on your golf game with a little **putt-putt**. Nearby courses include Brookpark Fun and Games Emporium at 6770 Brookpark Rd. and American Funland at 12201 Berea Rd.

Saturday 3

• Give your dog, or yourself, a **taste of the fresh spring air** and go for a run at one of the nearby Metroparks. If jogging isn't really your cup of tea, you can hike, bike or **just take a picnic lunch** and throw a Frisbee around at one of the various locations, including North Chagrin Reservation and South Chagrin Reservation. Dogs must be held on a leash at all times. Open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Visit www.clemetparks.com for park maps and more information.

Sunday 4

• All that pent-up aggression can be let loose in a fun, safe way.

Gather some friends and head out to the **paintball course at Swings-and Things.** One hour of play, with equipment and 100 balls, costs only $15, a relative bargain. To reserve the Paintball Village arena, call (440) 235-4469 ext. 105. Let the games begin!

HOME BRE

Pink is the new red, and Shaker is the new Acapulco. Staying at home for spring break has never been better. Up Front presents seven fun-filled days for those souls staying in Shaker

• **Everybody, everybody get your bowl on.** Put on your bowling shoes and head to nearby Solon Freeway Lanes at 33185 Bainbridge Rd. Open bowling is 9 p.m. to midnight on weeknights and until 2 a.m. weekends. You can play one game and rent shoes for just $6.50. Call 1-440-248-4080 for more information.

Which would you most like to do while home over break?

Go Shopping 29%

An Outdoor Activity 27%

Sleep 23%

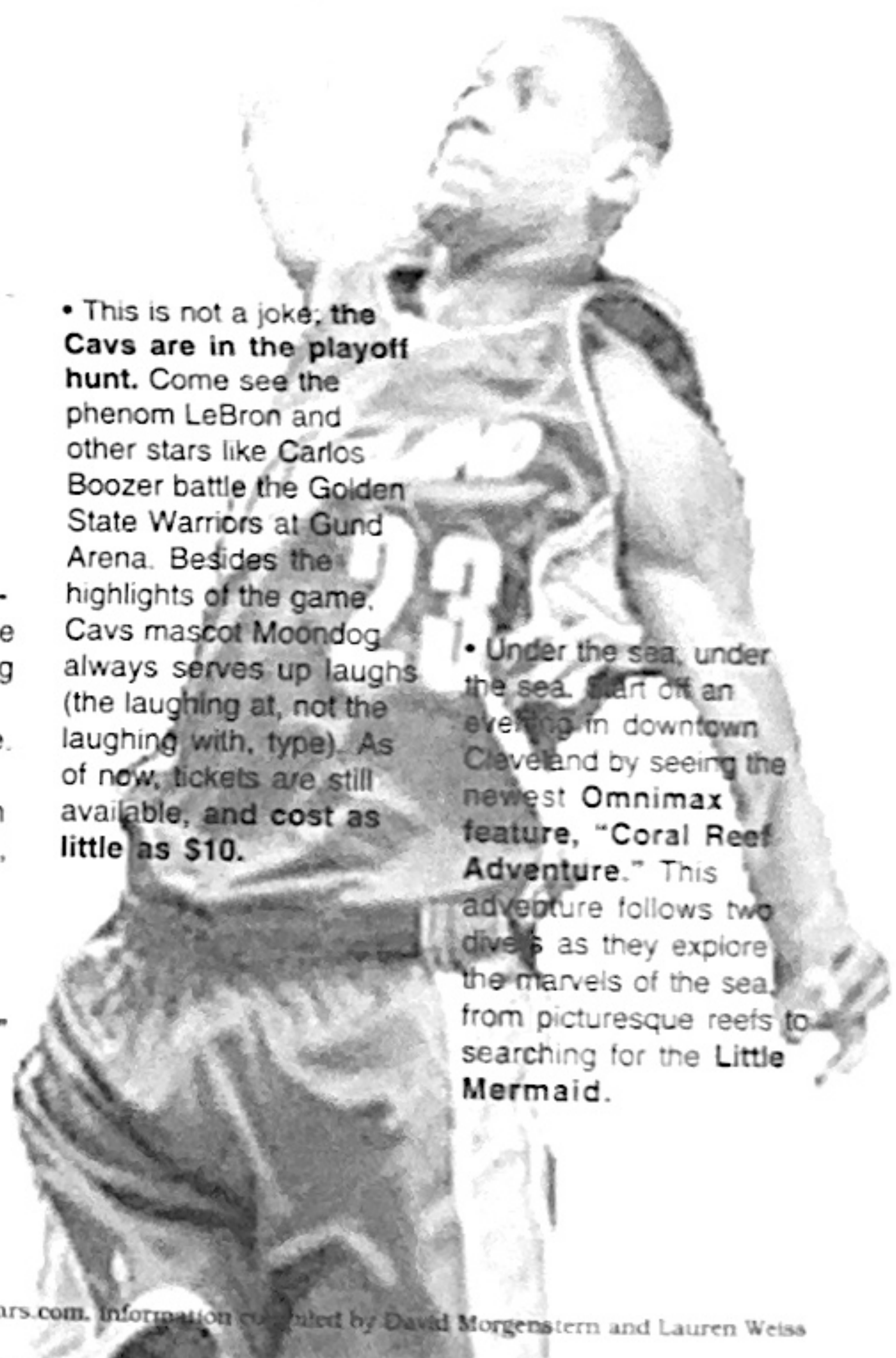
Go to a Cavs game 18%

Go to Swings-and-Things 3%

Scientific poll of 72 students with margin of error +/- 12 percent. Shakerite staff members telephones students.

• One word, seven letters. **Britney is back!** Her Onyx Hotel Tour brings her to Gund Arena tonight at 8 p.m. It has been a while, like a month, since she did anything outrageous, so be sure to keep your eyes open. **Anyone looking for a wife** and 15 minutes of fame cannot afford to miss this evening. Tickets, however, are a little harder to afford. They range from $47.50 to $78. Call Ticketmaster at (216) 241-5555.

• Feeling a **little teenie-bopperish?** "The Prince and Me," a movie starring Julia Stiles and Luke Mably, opens nationwide. Also opening today are "Home on the Range," an animated Disney musical, "Envy," a comedy starring Ben Stiller and Jack Black, and **the independent film** "United States of Leland."



• This is not a joke; **the Cavs are in the playoff hunt.** Come see the phenom LeBron and other stars like Carlos Boozer battle the Golden State Warriors at Gund Arena. Besides the highlights of the game, Cavs mascot Moondog always serves up laughs (the laughing at, not the laughing with, type). As of now, tickets are still available, **and cost as little as $10.**

• Under the sea, under the sea. Start off an evening in downtown Cleveland by seeing the newest **Omnimax feature, "Coral Reef Adventure."** This adventure follows two divers as they explore the marvels of the sea, from picturesque reefs to searching for the **Little Mermaid.**

Britney Spears photograph britneyspears.com. Information compiled by David Morgenstern and Lauren Weiss

RECYCLE THE SHAKERITE OR THE TREE DIES!

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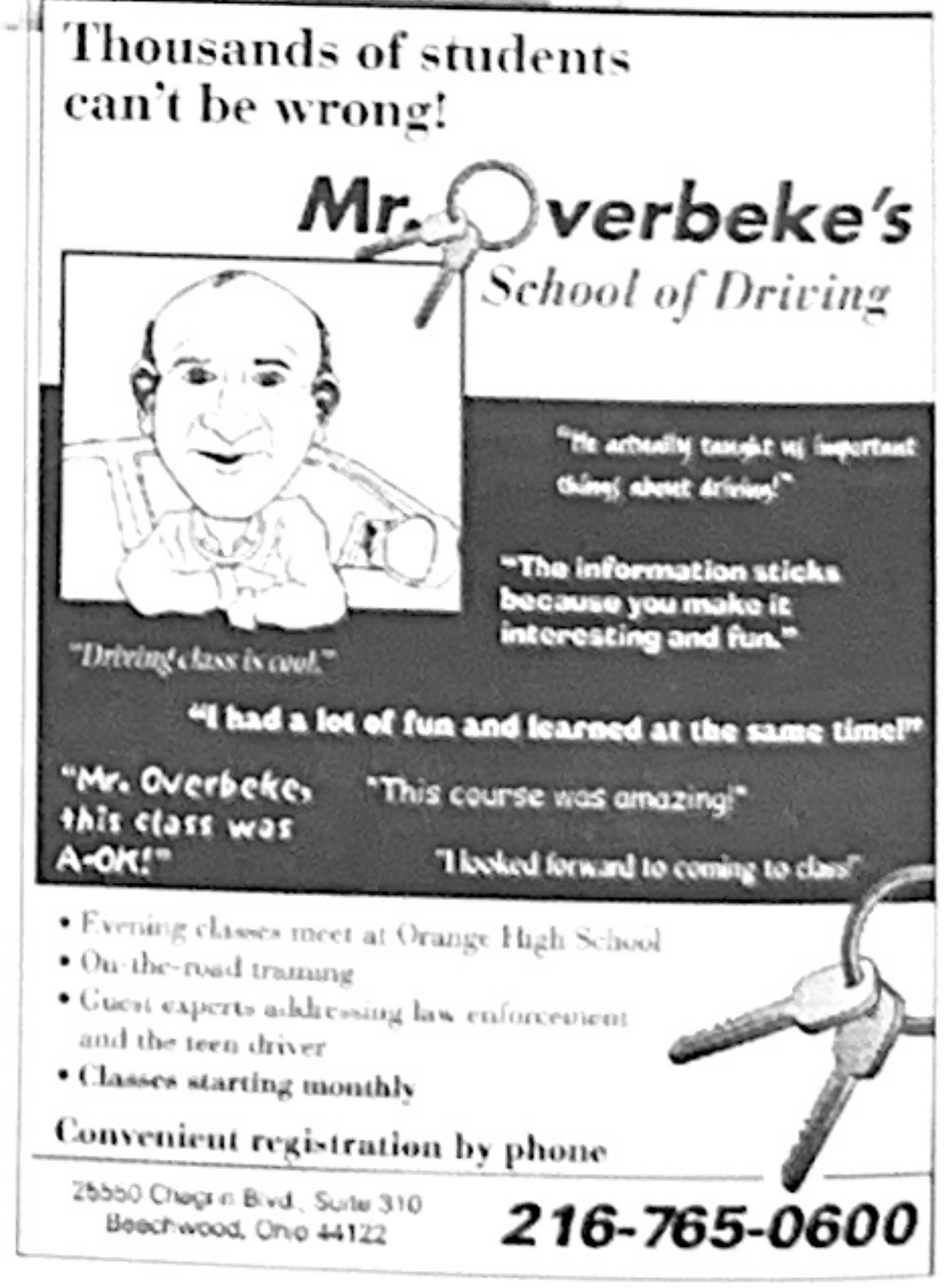


Thousands of students can't be wrong!

Mr. Overbeke's School of Driving

"He actually taught us important things about driving!"

"The information sticks because you make it interesting and fun."

"Driving class is cool."

"I had a lot of fun and learned at the same time!"

"Mr. Overbeke, this class was A-OK!"

"This course was amazing!"

"I looked forward to coming to class!"

- Evening classes meet at Orange High School
- On-the-road training
- Guest experts addressing law enforcement and the teen driver
- Classes starting monthly

Convenient registration by phone

25550 Chagrin Blvd., Suite 310
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

216-765-0600

Vasectomy going once, twice. . .
A record 900 people attended Shaker's twelfth annual Night for the Red and White fundraiser March 6. Eighteen corporate sponsors, Shaker residents and school employees donated various packages for the auction, which included everything from French tutoring to cheesecake. A parking space for a high school student to use during the '04-'05 school year was donated by the John Murphy family and went for $700. However, others offered gifts for adults to buy for themselves instead of for their children. Dr. Elroy Kursh of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation donated a vasectomy (estimated value $950).

Heights partnership registry faces challenge

FROM MARRIAGE PAGE 1

A member of the city's law department, however, said that because the registry provides no legal benefits, it is not illegal.

David Caldwell of Heights Families for Equality said he initiated the drive to set up the registry for three reasons.

"First of all, there's the symbolic way. It's inspiring to get recognized. Secondly, it is a way for people to get more rights, like in a hospital setting. Finally, it lets places adopt a policy to deal with domestic partners," he said.

While Cleveland Heights had already offered benefits to partners of gay employees, Shaker Heights does not offer similar benefits to city or school employees. A member of the city's human resource department expects the issue to be addressed soon.

The school district's personnel administrator said he has never received a request for benefits for a partner and is currently checking with the insurance carrier to check on its policy.

Hilry Hazelwood • THE SHAKERITE

JUNIOR MARTA LAPCZYNSKI, a GSA member, thinks Shaker should establish a domestic partner registry. "Marriage is the goal, but [the Cleveland Heights legislation] is a lot closer to public recognition of their love," she said.

Junior Marta Lapczynski, who is in the Gay-Straight Alliance, would like to see Shaker set up a domestic partnership registry.

"I'd like it to be everywhere. It provides validation," she said. "Marriage is the goal but this is a lot closer to public recognition of their love."

Ohio

On Feb. 6, Gov. Bob Taft signed a Defense of Marriage Act, modeled after similar federal legislation.

The federal Defense of Marriage Act was passed in 1996 when President Bill Clinton signed into a law a bill saying that the federal government will not recognize unions between gay partners but that states are free to make their own decisions.

The Ohio version stipulates that Ohio will not recognize marriages between gay partners and that the partners of state employees are not eligible for benefits. Ohio's law is considered one of the most restrictive in the nation. Language in the law denies same-sex couples any of the "benefits of marriage" but does not specify what those benefits are. Thus, opponents of domestic partnership registries, domestic partner benefits and gay adoption will likely use the law to challenge them in court. Similar legislation can be found in 37 other states, although some versions allow partners of state employees to receive benefits.

Massachusetts:

The Massachusetts State Supreme Court decided in November that same-sex partners have the right to be legally recognized as couples. On Feb. 4, the court ruled that the only constitutional way to recognize these unions would be with marriage.

Vermont

In April 2000, then governor Howard Dean and the Vermont legislature approved the nation's first-ever civil unions. Though they do not guarantee as many rights as marriage, civil unions enable partners to, among other things, claim custody of children, make medical decisions on behalf of a partner in case of emergency and receive any state mandated benefits given to married couples.

President Bush

President George W. Bush called for a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman to preserve "the most fundamental institution of civilization."

Such a bill would require the approval of two-thirds of both houses of Congress, three-quarters of the states and could not take affect until 2006.

Bush has also stated that he believes the states should have the right to decide whether or not to allow civil unions, when two people are given some, but not all, of the rights available to a married couple. Civil unions provide legal protection in states where they're recognized, but the amendment could make these unions illegal.

> "Down the road, other people will want changes for their alternative lifestyles."
>
> Eric Brakey
> sophomore

Massachusetts senator John Kerry, the Democratic presidential hopeful, has said he believes the issue should be left to the states.

Junior William Porter, who has been in GSA for two years, calls Bush's request "ridiculous."

"The amendment would be unconstitutional because it goes against civil rights," he said. "Marriage should be about love."

Sophomore Eric Brakey thinks that such an amendment would forestall a domino effect.

"I believe that civil unions are fine, but changing the definition of marriage would deteriorate the [sanctity] of marriage. If you make that change to accommodate some people's alternative lifestyles, down the road other people will want changes for their alternative lifestyles, like a polygamist, for example," he said.

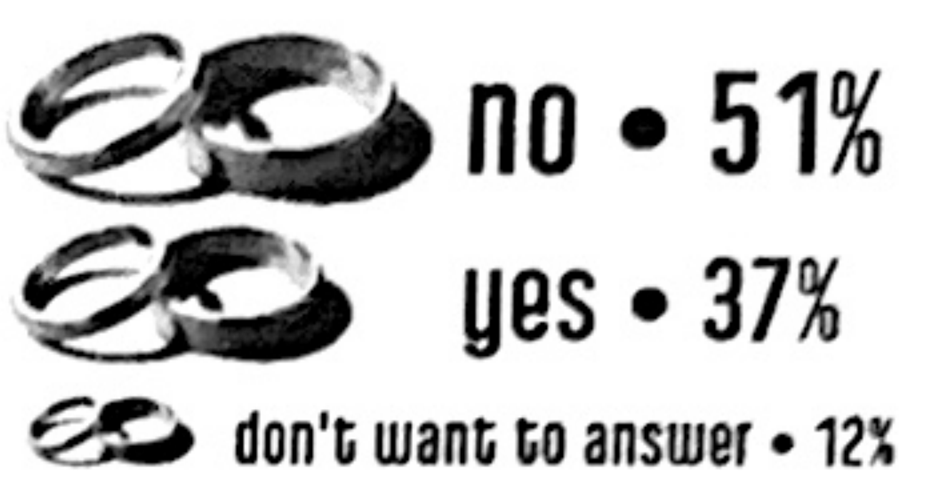
Nationwide

Various cities, like Portland, have begun issuing marriage licenses to gay couples in contempt of state law. The most prominent is San Francisco, where 3,500 marriages have taken place.

The California Supreme Court ordered San Francisco officials to stop granting marriage licenses to same-sex couples until the marriage's legality can be considered.

While California, like Ohio, has a law that refuses recognition of gay marriages, the city of San Francisco is suing the state because it feels the law violates the state constitution, which forbids discrimination.

Do you think the U.S. Constitution should be amended to ban gay marriage?



no • 51%

yes • 37%

don't want to answer • 12%

Scientific poll of 72 students w/margin of error +/- 12 percent. Shakerite staff members telelphoned students.

Charter schools allow for alternative education plans

By Allen Eckhouse
STAFF REPORTER

The notion of a one-room school housing students of all ages seems like a quaint vestige of frontier life, or a controversial 21st century strategy to improve public schools.

Under a 1997 Ohio law, individuals or businesses can ask the state for permission to create charter schools. Charter schools are publicly funded schools that are excused from following many state and local laws that apply to public schools. Legislators throughout the country have created charter school laws in order to establish what they call school choice. School choice supporters believe parents should have the choice to send their children to other schools if the public schools are insufficient.

Junior Charles Inniss previously attended New Jersey's Princeton Charter School. He feels the main difference between Shaker and Princeton Charter is class size.

"You were much closer to your classmates, since there was only one sixth grade class," Inniss said, adding that he would return to Princeton Charter if the opportunity arose.

The charter school movement began in the early 1990s due to slumping graduation rates in public schools. Ohio's law allows 225 charter schools to be created until Jan. 1, 2005, when the limit will be removed. Cuurently, there are 28,500 students enrolled in 142 Ohio charter schools. Nationally, about 684,000 students are enrolled in 2,700 charter schools.

Charters often hold classes in random buildings, such as churches or storefronts. East Cleveland's Marcus Garvey Academy holds classes for 66 students in a temporary neighborhood building until the new building's construction is completed. In fact, the search for Marcus Garvey Academy's true location was rather difficult.

Shaker Heights Teacher's Association
SHTA
Professionals Dedicated to Educating
Shaker's Youth

Art Baker, the executive director/principal of Marcus Garvey Academy, feels charters serve the community where the school district has failed.

Baker

"The bottom line really is the children, to make available opportunities to kids," Baker said. "All of the schools in the district [of East Cleveland] are in academic emergency."

Though Marcus Garvey Academy provides smaller classes and numerous clubs, it lacks sports teams and can afford only one building. Still, Baker feels that charters can provide a stronger community atmosphere than public schools. He said Marcus Garvey Academy focuses on the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child."

However, corruption has arisen in charters. Because the state law establishes limited oversight of charters, some who have established charters have used public funds illegally. For example, some charter teachers haven't been paid, and some officials have lied about their enrollees in order to receive more money from the state.

Most recently, East Cleveland's Imani Institute's officials were under investigation for allegedly using state funds illegally. State officials found records for the school's check debit card that show it was used at Ann Taylor, hotels and restaurants. Imani Institute officials say all spending was justified. In other cases, charter schools have simply closed when they ran out of money, leaving teachers without paychecks and students without instruction.

Any applicant is eligible for enrollment in a charter, but if the applicant pool becomes too large, a lottery-style process is used to see who will be accepted. The state allows charters to decide its long-term goals and records these goals in the charter. Once the charter is up, the charter is renewed if goals have been achieved. If not, the school will be shut down.

Some charters aren't creating better opportunities for students. According to The Akron Beacon Journal, most charter schools failed in the academic goals that they set and are behind public schools.

Lisa Vitkus, the first vice president of Shaker Heights High School's PTO, said that charter schools "divert tax dollars away from public schools."

Betty Elee contributed to this article

the News Desk

Parents form new panel

PTO members Amy Morgenstern and Susan Seitz will appoint two parent representatives to work on the senior project review panel this year. The panel reviews cases where students haven't met the manual's requisites and decides if a student can continue to participate. Also, the PTO will enlist a group of 20 or more parents to make phone calls or site visits as well as send e-mails to promote positive interaction between the school and project sponsors. "We want to help serve as a liaison between the school and each individual sponsor," Morgenstern said.

-December Kinney

OH primary draws out contestants

Sen. John Kerry (MA) defeated Sen. John Edwards (NC) in Ohio's Democratic presidential primary. Kerry took 52 percent of the votes while Edwards earned 34 percent. Cleveland Rep. Dennis Kucinich trailed, with 9 percent. The victory on Super Tuesday was one of nine for Kerry, and this helped force Edwards to withdraw from the race. In other races, Tim Hagan beat out Tim McCormack for Cuyahoga County Commissioner (53.2 percent to 46.8 percent); Eric Fingerhut (D) and George Voinovich (R) took their party's primaries for November's US Senate race and Issue 30, a tax to pay for economic and cultural development, was defeated. School levies in Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Euclid and Lakewood passed, while those in Garfield Heights, Parma and Mentor failed.

-Jason Plautz

Safety can be tough to sell

• Education, legislation, peer influence try to combat risky behaviors

FROM BEHAVIOR PAGE 1

understand the risks involved with driving by informing them that two of the most common causes of accidents are driving distractions and excessive speed. He also stresses the importance of seatbelts.

"The single most important thing that teenagers can do to prevent any injury whatsoever is to wear a seatbelt," Overbeke said.

Because distractions are among the top causes of accidents, some states have passed laws restricting teenage driving, in particular limiting the number of passengers in a car driven by a teenager.

Under a law enacted in Oregon in 2000, during the first six months of driving, teenagers are not allowed to drive with any passenger under the age of 20 who is not a member of their immediate family. Pennsylvania and Illinois are two other states that have passed similar teenage driving laws.

Thirty-two states, including Ohio, have established a system of graduated licensing, which means that it takes several stages for teenagers to get their licenses.

"Graduated licensing allows young drivers to improve their skills and driving habits, and restricts nighttime driving, when most teen driver accidents occur," according to the Ohio Insurance Organization.

Alcohol and drugs are two other factors that have a significant role in teenage car accidents and bring up many moral, ethical and behavioral dilemmas.

Have you ever been in a car with someone going more than 10 mph over the speed limit?

SITE 300
SPEED LIMIT
35
UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED

Yes • 81%

No • 19%

Scientific poll of 72 students with margin of error +/- 12 percent. Shakerite staff members telephoned students.

Even though many teens feel that they understand the dangers associated with speeding or driving under the influence, some remain hesitant to speak up when they are around someone who is behaving recklessly.

"I think that kids listen to what their parents say about things like not getting into a car with a drunk driver, but when they are put in the situation they totally forget about it because they don't want to be seen as the motherly figure," junior Kate LeSueur said.

Many communities have started programs based on the idea that the most effective way to get a safety message to teens is through other young people.

> "It is harder to reach students of our own age so we try to help people that are younger than us."
>
> Lloyd Brooks
> SHARP Member

The city of Shaker Heights created a group called Student Health Advocates Reaching Peers. SHARP teens try to influence their peers to make healthy, drug-free choices.

Members of SHARP work throughout the community to spread information about teen health by making public service announcements and interacting with students at Shaker Middle School.

Sophomore Lloyd Brooks, a member of SHARP, believes in the importance of teaching younger children about these issues.

"It is harder to reach students of our own age so we try to help people that are younger than us," Brooks said. "Hearing it from older students encourages them to really listen and understand what we are saying."

One activity that the members of SHARP created for the Middle School students was to ask them to write down the percentage of high school students that they thought use tobacco. The members of SHARP later showed the students the real numbers, which were usually much less than their estimates.

"This showed the students that it's not cool to use tobacco," Brooks said.

After the demise of SADD, Paula Dworkin continues to make an effort to help teens be safe. She now passes out a list of six key questions intended to help students evaluate whether a situation may be dangerous or harmful to them in any way.

"If someone thinks that the answer to even one of these questions is yes, then they should change their behavior," Dworkin said. "These rules can apply to everyone, not just teenagers."

Dworkin encourages students to seriously consider these questions because she feels that they could have a very positive effect on the way that they make decisions.

How effective are anti-drug and anti-smoking commercials?

Effective • 58%

Not Effective • 29%

Very Effective • 12%

Scientific poll of 72 students with a margin of error +/- 12 percent. Shakerite staff members telephoned students.

PTO forum reviews teen choices and exposure to dangerous situations

Schultz

The high school PTO and Shaker Heights Youth Center hosted a forum March 15 for the community concerning teens' risky behaviors. Short speeches by three experts were followed by a question-and-answer session, which included comments by teens in attendance. Dr. Ted Parren, an internal medicine specialist, gave an overview of mood-altering substances, saying that teens have adult bodies whose judgment has not caught up. He stated that "judgment is incredibly soluble in alcohol." Parren clarified that alcohol and cocaine affect judgment, with marijuana and heroin having lesser effects. Connie Schultz, a Plain Dealer columnist, spoke about the prevalence of oral sex parties in Shaker, some occurring when parents are home. She emphasized that parents are not their children's friends and need to teach their children to value their sexuality and their bodies. Dr. Lynn Milliner, a pediatrician who focuses on adolescents, also stressed the importance of parent-child conversations that allow preteens and teens to discuss issues in a non-accusatory, stress-free, one-on-one environment. She said parents need to know their children's friends' parents and should continue to ask questions even though there are "no guarantees." Milliner said teens who cut themselves off from their parents and whose grades are falling could be involved in dangerous behaviors.

- Lauren Weiss

Ohio considers allowing four-day school week

• If bill passes, Shaker not likely to switch

BY LAURA CHERNIN
STAFF REPORTER

Imagine - the four-day week phenomenon students experienced courtesy of a snow day, an electrical fire and Presidents' Day weekend could return for good.

House Bill number 102, currently pending, would allow all schools, public and private, to fulfill their academic year by hours (910) instead of days (182). The bill would allow school systems to establish a four-day school week.

The bill, written by Mount Vernon State Rep. Thom Collier, would allow schools more flexibility to cancel classes due to bad weather t could also save school districts money and lengthen the school day.

"You always dream about having a short school week," said sophomore Nick Mercer, who added that, in the long run, "it wouldn't be so helpful."

Do you think Shaker should shorten the school week to four days if Ohio passes a law allowing it?

Yes	No
62%	38%

Scientific poll of 72 students with a margin of error +/- 12 percent. Shakerite staff members telephoned students.

> "You always dream about having a short school week."
>
> Nick Mercer
> Sophomore

Junior Claudia Lerner claimed the real problem was that information "crammed into 50 minutes" is not in-depth enough. "A four-day school week would only make it worse," Lerner said.

Guidance counselor Eileen Blattner exclaimed, "I would love it!" but added that there is not enough time in four days to get done what needs to be done. She said that teachers would have to incorporate greater student involvement in order to keep students interested during longer class periods.

As a concerned parent of a junior, Dolly Breese believed the shorter week would benefit the student overall. "In the long run, students would perform better," said Breese, adding that a four-day week would give them more time to "regroup" and be more focused. "I think it would affect their school work or performance for the better," Breese said. "Kids nowadays are so over worked with activities."

In states such as Arizona, New Mexico and Michigan, many schools districts have already adopted the four-day week. Although Ohio's bill would allow four-day weeks, the required hours per school year would not change. That means shorter summer vacation.

Should the bill pass, Lerner and Mercer doubt Shaker would opt for the four-day week. Mercer said that it didn't sound like it would fit with Shaker's reputation.

Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell confirmed that hunch. "Never say never, but we've kind of been going in the other direction . . . We think students probably need more time to work on studies rather than less," she said.

Blattner noted the bill could create a problem for parents who work five days a week "What are students going to do on the 5th day?" she said.

Breese did not seem concerned. "I would not be worried about her staying [home]," Breese said. She believes her daughter, junior Jamie Breese, would use the time to "catch up on projects" and "get some extra sleep."

An extra day off might not prove to be so fun for Lerner. "I'd end up spending it doing homework," she said.

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the News Desk

TV explores Shaker race relations

ABC and CNN news programs about the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the Supreme Court decision aimed at ending segregation in public schools, will focus on the high school.

Paul Mason ('73) will study the effects of desegregation on Shaker for ABC. Mason and his crew are interviewing current Shaker students and graduates from the '60s and '70s to determine how diversity has influenced their lives. Mason chose Shaker because the district has worked to achieve integration with programs such as the Shaker Schools Plan. This lasted from 1970 to 1987 (when boundaries were redrawn) and achieved voluntary integration by busing students and by offering magnet programs to attract students. "Many schools in America do not reflect what the Supreme Court envisioned," Mason said.

ABC, like CBS, will send crews to the high school, but ABC will also follow the band to Europe to observe students outside of school.

SMS lab burns

A fire led to smoke damage and broken windows in a middle school classroom March 10. Custodians and school security discovered the fire around 6:10 p.m. due to an alarm. Some afterschool activities were still meeting.

The fire department responded within minutes and quickly put out the fire.

No one was injured. The building was evacuated safely and no other rooms were damaged.

The fire department was still investigating the cause of the fire as of press time March 15.

- Emily Grannis

Car theft leaves Wick baffled on birthday

By Betty Elee
NEWS EDITOR

When senior Jacob Wick realized his car was missing from senior Steve O'Connell's driveway March 4, he thought it was a prank. It was his birthday, after all.

"Steve's mom said three girls came up and drove over her lawn in my car," Wick said. "I got my mom and she drove me to the police station."

Wick told the police about the system students use to park at the O'Connells' house. Students park six cars in the drive, which is across the street from the large auditorium parking lot. They leave their car doors unlocked and their keys in the cars. That way, if a friend's car blocks another's path, he can move the car himself.

"All the cops said that it was stupid," Wick said. Since Wick's car was stolen, the students have abandoned their move-it-yourself system.

Wick

Wick received a call from Cleveland police around 9 p.m. that night informing him that his car had been found in downtown Cleveland, occupied by at least one female juvenile. Wick picked up his vehicle that night and he later found cosmetics and the remains of a McDonald's meal in the back.

"Everything was in there, and [basically] these girls went joyriding," Wick said.

These Shaker females later picked up a fourth person - a 9-year-old. The ringleader, according to Shaker police, will be charged with receiving stolen property and grand theft auto.

The Ohio Insurance Institute, an association dedicated to assisting Ohioans in understanding car insurance and related safety issues, states on its website that "in past years, the principal theft problem was created by youths who used stolen vehicles for joyrides." The Institute also noted that in 2002, the most current and available year, about 42,767 cars were stolen in Ohio.

Any possession is susceptible to theft, for according to writer Steven M. Houseworth, all humans are selfish beings. However, Houseworth states in his book "The Psychology of Stealing" that "most people are not willing to cause injury to other people - if they understand the injury."

Psychology teacher Sally Hagstrand feels this doesn't include teenagers because the mind of a teenager is still developing and in need of stimulation. Still, Hagstrand feels the issue of theft is far more complex than it seems.

It depends on "what type of morals, values and environment you grew up in," Hagstrand said.

Barbara O'Connell, Steve's mother, thinks the way her family has reached out to the community doesn't warrant crime happening in her own driveway.

"I'm just very, very sad [about the theft,]" she said.

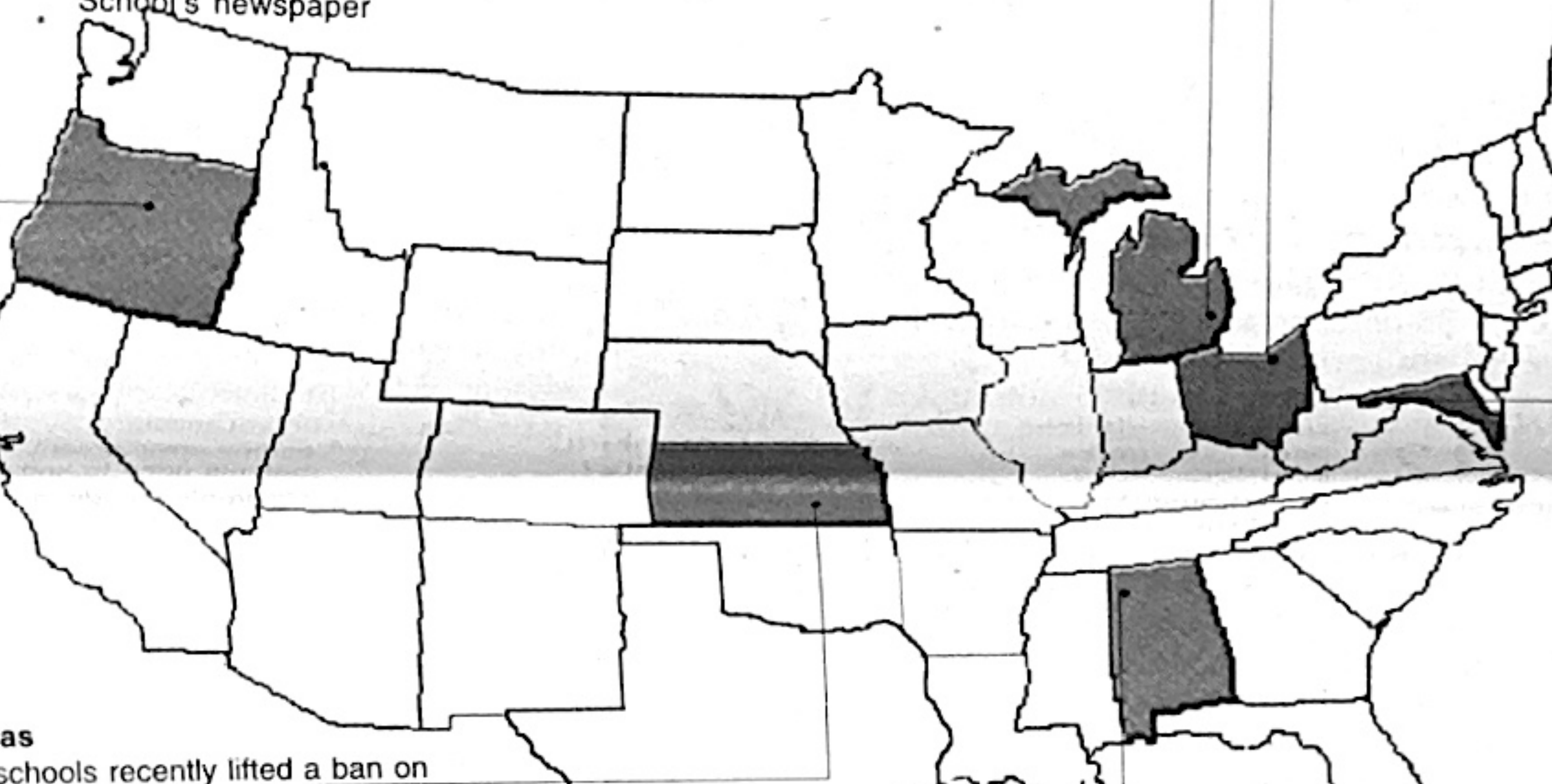
News in the Nation

Southfield, Michigan
Students at Southfield High School will now be fined for staying in school without a purpose after school ends. Starting at 2:35 p.m., students will be escorted to the Teen Learning Center, where they will remain until a parent comes to pick them up. Before leaving the adult-supervised center, students must pay $5 for every hour spent in the center. Students face indefinite suspension for not paying the fine and a three-day suspension for insubordination if they refuse to go to the center

- The Southfield Jay, Southfield High School's newspaper

Mayfield Heights, Ohio
Mayfield Heights High School administration used their Internet filter to block Ratemyteacher.com, a site used by high school students and parents to post comments about teachers. The site originated after Ratemyprofessor.com became popular at the collegiate level. Now, parents around the country are calling for a similar website to rate elementary school teachers.

- The Associated Press



Oregon
A recent study shows that a 2000 Oregon driving law has reduced the number of teen crashes by 35 percent. *The law is very similar to Ohio's laws on teen driving.*

- Oregon Dept. of Transportation

Silver Spring, Maryland
Students at Blair High School celebrated Black History Month with a Sankofa presentation Feb. 27. The show was called "Journeys" and highlighted African Americans influence in the past and the present through music, song, dance and poetry.

- Silver Chips, the Blair High School newspaper

Wichita, Kansas
Wichita's high schools recently lifted a ban on recruiters from Washburn University. Washburn representatives had been barred from the Wichita public schools and many of the local private Catholic schools because the college displayed a sculpture of a Catholic clergyman who wore a ceremonial hat that offended many Catholics.

- The Kansas City Star

Phil Campbell, Alabama
William Smith, principal of Phil Campbell High School, suggested separating public and private school sports teams for championship programs within the Alabama High School Athletic Association. Smith sited financial incentives offered by private schools as the source of imbalance in attracting quality athletes. "It's just an unfair advantage," Smith said. "When you start giving out scholarships, that's an unfair playing field."

- Times Daily Newspaper

Compiled by Emily Grannis

Ohio experiments on class of '06 with new graduation test

By Ashley Weatherford
STAFF REPORTER

When sophomore Julia Shatten learned that she was to take the Ohio Graduation Test, she wasn't concerned, considering only one of her six teachers had even mentioned the test.

Although results for sophomores who took the test March 16-18 do not count toward their graduation, the OGT is intended to ensure all students receiving high school diplomas in Ohio show proficiency in reading, writing, math and science. Beginning next year with the class of 2007, the OGT will replace the Ohio Ninth Grade Proficiency Test as the required exam for graduation. The OGT was administered early as part of the state's effort to clear up problems before the test begins to count.

If you knew a test wouldn't count for you, would you still take it?

Scientific poll of 72 students with margin of error +/- 12 percent. Shakerite staff members telphoned students.

While Ohio has mandated some graduation test since the early 1990s, results from the OGT are governed by the 2001 federal No Child Left Behind Act. Under NCLBA, all public schools must prove by 2014 that students are proficient in the test subjects. Each state must develop its own standards for assessment and define adequate yearly progress. The act also states that 95 percent of all students must take the test. Schools that fail to meet the federal law's requirements for adequate yearly progress face consequences ranging from a bad rating to having to pay for private tutoring for students to even replacing the school's administrators, teachers and/or curriculum. Shaker failed to achieve 95 percent participation last year.

The test is considered more challenging than the OPT it's replacing. Beginning next year, sophomores who fail any section of the OGT will have two more chances to pass the test. Students can graduate without passing all five of the sections if they have a 97 percent attendance rate, a GPA of at least 2.5 and a letter of recommendation from the teacher of the test subject they failed.

According to Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson, teachers have reviewed all year long. "[Testing material] is embedded in the curriculum," Hutchinson said.

However, math teacher Mary Ann Wonson said the creators of the test haven't made clear what they are looking for. "The creators of the test did not talk with educators. It was made up by some guys in a board room," Wonson said.

English teacher Dr. Yvonne Allen helped compose the OGT's writing portion and feels the goal is to decide what all students should know after high school. According to Allen, about $17 million is used to educate high school graduates in remedial college classes. Still, she recognizes the disadvantages of the OGT. "The curriculum may not be taught by teachers," Allen said. "The test makes the assumption that all kids learn the same way."

Parent Sandi Burnside believes that it is not the responsibility of the school to prepare students for the test and that it would be too much money for the taxpayers to spend for extra classes.

Shatten said she would take the test more seriously if her teachers did. She realizes she's lucky because she doesn't have to pass the OGT to graduate.

"That sucks for the freshman. I'm just glad to be a sophomore," Shatten said.

Saturday Night Sitter Needed

Fernway neighborhood family seeks female sitter for two fun elementary school girls. Sitter needs to commit to two Saturday nights per month. $5 per hour, minimum of five hours per sit. Nonsmoker. Some dog walking required. Prefer Sophomore or older. Please call Linda at (216) 751-9067

Percent of Ohio workers unemployed in January 2001: 3.9
Percent of Ohio workers unemployed in January 2004: 6.2
Number of Ohio workers unemployed in January 2004: 367,402
Percent margin between Bush and Gore in 2000 Ohio General Election: 1.8
Number of Republicans who have won the presidency without winning Ohio: 0
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, The London Times

<<<<<Shakerite Index

Private schools part of public problem

KYAN SAFAVI
OPINION EDITOR

Twelve years ago, when my sister was entering fourth grade, my parents decided to transfer her from Shaker public schools to Laurel School. She continued through primary and secondary school at Laurel, one of the more prestigious all-girls schools in Ohio. I never questioned my parents' choice. But today I am on the verge of completing my thirteenth year at Shaker, and I have realized that she was deprived of the greatest opportunity that childhood can afford.

It has been shown that females generally do better academically in private schools with fewer distractions and social pressures, fewer cliques, and less negative peer scrutiny for getting good grades. Yet the advantages of a more controlled learning environment are misleading.

Students in private institutions are missing out on perhaps the most rewarding experience of school: a social education. Socio-economic diversity, a variety in background, beliefs and aspirations in race and ethnicity - all played integral roles in my education. Parents, administrators and politicians must realize that peer influence and broad exposure to life meet the goals of education, too.

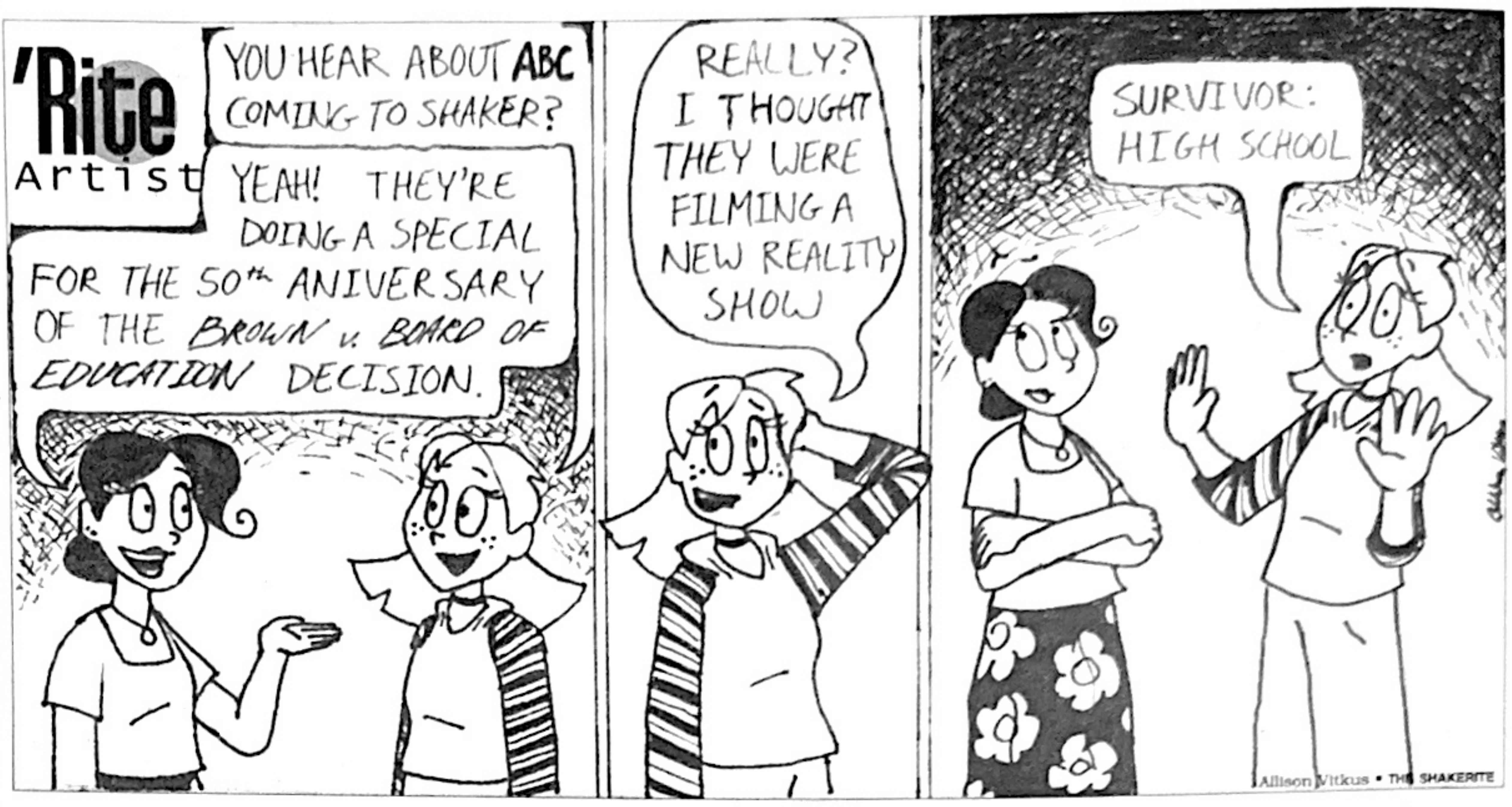
Yet in Ohio many public school systems are going in the red. Cleveland and Cleveland Heights face teacher layoffs, reduced faculty salaries, crumbling facilities, and the closing of several elementary schools, with subsequent overcrowding. Meanwhile, Ohio ranks first in the nation in private school funding, spending more than $420 million in last year. Meanwhile, Ohio dropped from 24th to 32nd in public school funding. Private schools are depleting the energy and financial resources that are most needed in public systems.

Why shouldn't private schools be one hundred percent responsible for their own welfare? Alumni donors and parents who pay the exorbitant tuition to send their children to these elite institutions should be fund them alone. If they can't, then private school children should enroll in public schools. The well-being of many communities, including Shaker, rests on public school systems.

By focusing energy and resources on public schools, lawmakers should be able to prevent the decline of public systems like those in Cleveland. Healthy public districts will produce students who are more aware of the multidimensional world and are better able to reinvest their knowledge into the community.

Charter schools, which are publicly funded and often fall under the influence of powerful businessmen and interest groups, should not have access to government money. Instead, the government should expand existing school districts. Studies have proved that students learn better in smaller classes. Constructing more public schools will relieve overcrowding. The needed funds should be available once private schools stop wreaking the $420 million dollar benefits of taxes.

Today, my sister is experiencing multiculturalism at the University of Michigan. Bright-eyed and eager, she fills dinner table conversations with her stories-of the a new peer group that has opened the window to a new world of experience.


'Rite Artist
YOU HEAR ABOUT ABC COMING TO SHAKER?
YEAH! THEY'RE DOING A SPECIAL FOR THE 50th ANIVERSARY OF THE BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION DECISION.
REALLY? I THOUGHT THEY WERE FILMING A NEW REALITY SHOW
SURVIVOR: HIGH SCHOOL
Allison Vitkus • THE SHAKERITE

Think before you watch the news

the 'Rite Idea

On nearly every news channel throughout the country, news organizations promise to deliver a balanced and accurate account of the world's events. Only 49 percent of Americans, however, think news organizations are highly professional. Furthermore, only 35 percent believe news organizations generally get the facts straight.

The media, sometimes so influential in U. S. policy that it is commonly called "the fourth branch of the government," has become notorious for spinning news coverage to please advertisers and denying airtime to vital news stories.

Prominent examples of the media's misguided intentions are abundant in the last four years alone. On election night 2000, major news networks, including MSNBC and CNN, twice declared a winner of the Florida delegates. Operating on unreliable exit polls and sparsely reported vote counts, the organizations were more concerned with reporting the winner of the election first, instead of checking the accuracy of their stories.

In 2003, The New York Times, one of the most widely distributed and respected media organizations in the world, suffered a credibility crisis when it was revealed that staff reporter Jayson Blair plagiarized and fabricated information in more than 36 stories during an eight-month period.

During "sweeps week" in February, May and November, Cleveland news channels plunge into a search for the most crude, juvenile, racy and unnewsworthy stories in order to win the ratings sweeps race. Rather trying to inform the public, news agencies focus solely on attracting advertisers and inflating profits.

Every night, TV news programs attempt to cram news, weather, sports, entertainment and still more weather into the 18 minutes or so not committed to commercials in a half-hour newscast. On March 14, Channel 3 News 11 p.m. newscast led with an extended segment best described as "Cavs win!" followed by a story about the wind in Cleveland. By the first commercial break, the newscast had not mentioned the surprising defeat of Spain's ruling party candidate in a national election influenced by voters' distaste for the Spanish government's cooperation with the U.S. war in Iraq. Socialist candidate, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, was elected prime minister and immediately said he would withdraw Spanish forces from Iraq. This critical world event — which will have major consequences for America – went unnoticed in favor of man-on-the-street responses to an NBA regular season game.

Unfortunately, media outlets such as these have no incentive to change, unless their big-bucks advertisers stop sending checks. If viewers were to stop watching these programs and turn to more reliable news outlets, networks would be forced to change their programming in order to keep their advertising revenue.

Utilizing government-funded resources such as PBS, NPR and C-SPAN, for example, minimizes manipulation of the news for economic benefit. Also, seeking out reliable news websites, such as www.bbc.co.uk, is an effective way to avoid mass media spin and negligence.

In the end, patrons of the media dictate the success of a news source. Patrons must become media literate and take the initiative to improve the quality of news in this country. The state of the world today requires people to be literate in order to even have a hope of making a difference.

> If viewers were to stop watching these programs and turn to more reliable news outlets, networks would be forced to change their programming in order to keep their advertising revenue

Analysis of 'Revolve' message contradictory

Letter to the editor

To the Editor:

I was upset with 'Heaven help us, Revolve is here.' It comes across as contradictory to say as a preface that you don't mean to put down Christianity or the Bible and then proceed to give a harsh secular critique of the New Testament. Believe it or not, Revolve is an accurate form of the New Testament. The whole point of making it look like a magazine is for aesthetic appeal. They did not alter any biblical text in writing Revolve. It's important to explore the content of the Bible before claiming that Revolve is a gross misrepresentation of it.

Revolve is like any other study Bible; it provides text and side-note interpretations. To say that the content is demeaning to women, homosexuals and other religions shows your lack of understanding of Christianity as a whole.

Yes, Christians do value an attitude of meekness, but meekness is not the same as weakness.

Yes, Christians do believe that homosexuality is a sin; we also believe in loving all people despite their actions, just as Christ loves us.

Yes, Christians do believe that Christianity is the ultimate Truth, as does every other monotheistic religion in the world.

Yes, Christians do believe in praying for others, but not in trying to "change their ways," because change comes from an individual's will only. Is it so hard to believe that girls should not be argumentative when numerous fights in school result from being short-tempered? Having an argumentative personality is tantamount to living in discontent, and Christians are called to "live at peace with everyone as much as possible."

Essentially I'm writing to confirm the same principles that were ridiculed.

It would behoove the writer greatly to fact-check with an actual Bible before spewing dissatisfaction of what was called "a gross misrepresentation," which is actually an accurate adaptation of the New Testament.

Call these morals old-fashioned if you want, but having lived both the Christian and the not-so Christian life, I prefer the former.

Leah Hitchens, Junior

We want *you* to write for opinion!

Take issue with The Shakerite? Write a letter to the editor. Letters must not exceed 200 words and must be submitted on a disk. Submit your letter to room 231 or shakerite.com. Include your name and phone number at the top.

FCC can't handle a bit of fun

By Matt Seidner
OPINION EDITOR

Who likes fun even less than a seventeenth century Puritan?

Easy! The Federal Communications Commission.

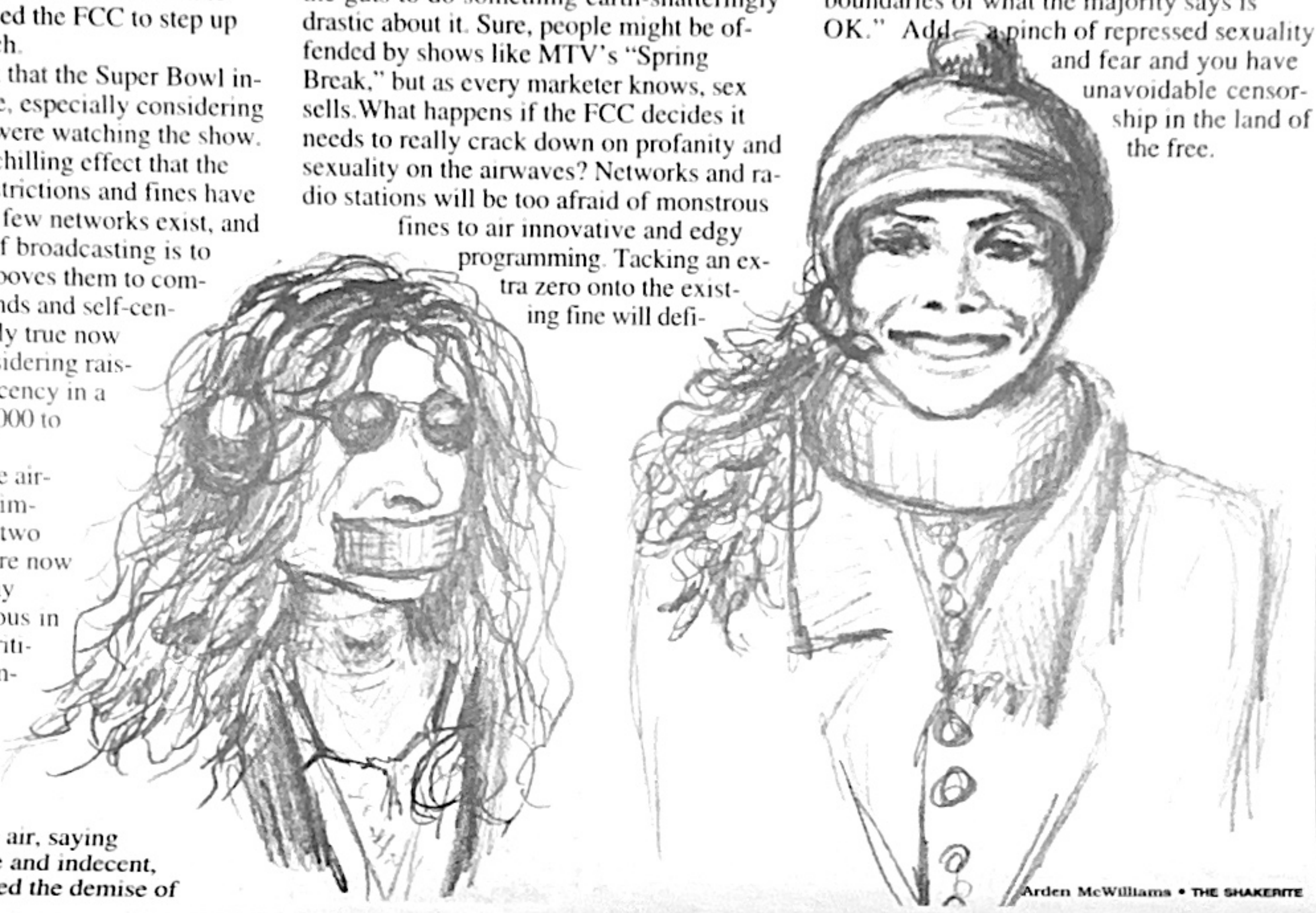
After Justin Timberlake tore off part of Janet Jackson's costume during the Super Bowl XXXVIII halftime show, revealing part of her breast, 200,000 viewers called in to complain. This caused the FCC to step up their obscenity watch.

There's no doubt that the Super Bowl incident was offensive, especially considering that many children were watching the show. The problem is the chilling effect that the FCC's threats of restrictions and fines have created. Because so few networks exist, and their sole purpose of broadcasting is to make money, it behooves them to comply with FCC demands and self-censor. This is especially true now that the FCC is considering raising the fine for indecency in a broadcast from $27,000 to $270,000.

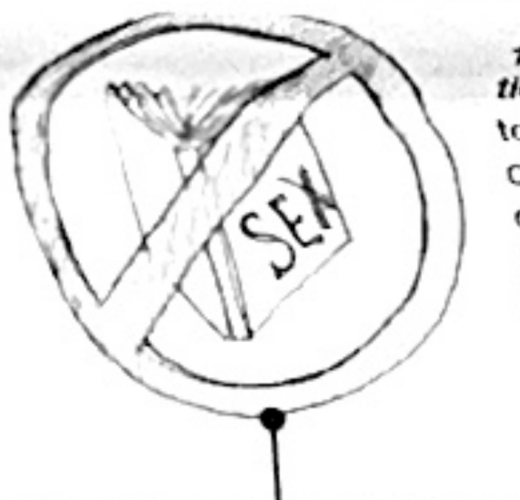
The climate of the airwaves has changed immensely in the past two months. Networks are now scrambling to portray themselves as virtuous in order to deflect all criticism of their programming decisions.

Radio megacorporation Clear Channel booted shock jock *Howard Stern off the air, saying that he was offensive and indecent, and Stern has predicted the demise of* his show. The Grammys were aired with a five-minute delay, and Oscars speakers' comments were held back five seconds so that CBS and ABC, respectively, could censor any offensive language or performances.

All this without a single real regulation from the FCC! And here I thought that for all the complaints leveled at the entertainment industry over the years, nobody would have the guts to do something earth-shatteringly drastic about it. Sure, people might be offended by shows like MTV's "Spring Break," but as every marketer knows, sex sells.What happens if the FCC decides it needs to really crack down on profanity and sexuality on the airwaves? Networks and radio stations will be too afraid of monstrous fines to air innovative and edgy programming. Tacking an extra zero onto the existing fine will definitely deter any programming that could possible offend anyone. The crackdown really shouldn't have been a surprise considering the values of this nation's first immigrants. The whole campaign is puritanical. Anyone who ever read "The Scarlet Letter" knows that the flip side of freedom of expression and personal liberty is a healthy dose of "don't you dare go outside the boundaries of what the majority says is OK." Add a pinch of repressed sexuality and fear and you have unavoidable censorship in the land of the free.



Arden McWilliams • THE SHAKERITE



1873. The Comstock Law was passed barring "obscene, lewd, or lascivious book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication of vulgar and indecent character," and "any article or thing designed or intended for the prevention of contraception or procuring of abortion."

1934: The Federal Communications Commission was created to regulate the growth of media corporations to monitor the content of broadcasts. The FCC has recently put pressure on broadcasting companies to more closely moniter any obscene material.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

1957: Roth vs. United States was a landmark Supreme Court case in which the court ruled that sexual materials lack any "redeeming" social qualities and are therefore not protected under the First Amendment.

1996: Congress' first attempt to suppress sexual Internet speech, the Communications Decency Act (CDA) was struck down by the Supreme Court because it would have reduced "the adult population" to reading and viewing "only what is fit for children."

2001. Congress passes a second Internet censorship law, the Child Online Protection Act (COPA). COPA substituted for the CDA's very broad indecency ban of material "harmful to minors."

By Kyan Safavi. Art by Sara Juengst

End movie recycling madness, please!

By Andy Cameron
STAFF REPORTER

It has been almost a full year since I saw "X2: X-Men United" in the theater and I still don't know if I have the will to carry on. The way Hollywood has adapted comic books and video games for the big screen is getting out of control. It was bad enough when "Howard The Duck" got made into a movie, but now I am living in a society that not only makes movies out of comic books, but also condones their production. The madness must end! Never again should I have to suffer through a "Tomb Raider" or "Spider-Man" movie. I want to live in a world where "Resident Evil" is a shoot 'em up game and "Daredevil" is a comic book, not where they are terrible movies.

Never again should I have to suffer through a "Tomb Raider" or "Spider-Man" movie.

The constant rehashing of old ideas is nothing new in Hollywood. Some of the best movies ever made were adaptations from novels, such as "Gone With The Wind" and "Lord of the Rings." Now it seems Hollywood has run out of highbrow literature to steal from and must pick movie ideas out of the bargain bin.

I'll admit that I used to read comic books, heck, I STILL read comic books, but I understand a very important fact: comic books, video games and movies were made as separate entities and that is the way it was meant to be.

We as film watchers are entitled to better movies. All studios in America should be forced to offer reparations for making "House of the Dead" into a movie. People have to stop accepting what they are given and demand the best. If we keep traveling along the road we're on now, by 2006 I'll be standing in line for "Pac-Man: The Movie" staring Russell Crowe.

the Top Ten

REASONS WHY WE LOVE SOPHOMORES DRIVING TO SCHOOL

10 Sleep is for the weak

9 Who needs the oval? Oval schmoval

8 Soggy footwear is in

7 Quality bonding time with Mother Nature

6 It's good training for the Iditarod

5 It allows you to admire the nicer underclassmen cars

4 Frosbite feels good on our toes

3 Nothing is more exhilarating in the morning than a hike

2 We get to laugh at the creative sophomoric parking jobs

1 Seniority is overrated

Shhhhhhhh! This is a hallway!

My lunch period has finally arrived, and I need to review for an afternoon test. Because the library is too cold and too noisy, I find a quiet place in the third-floor hallway, settle down with my book and an apple, and begin to study silently.

ANNA HUTT
COPY EDITOR

Three minutes into my private work session, a red-shirted security guard approaches to inform me that I need to leave unless I have a pass.Seeing as I am without an accredited pink piece of paper signed by a teacher, I tell the guard politely that I have no pass but am simply reading during my lunch period.

Apparently that's not a good enough excuse. I'm not causing a disruption; I'm not even talking until the guard addresses me. But we don't bend rules for special situations at Shaker, and the rule mandates that a student cannot be in a hallway without a signed pass, even if - heaven forbid - she simply wants a quiet spot to study. In general, I am not the type to defy authority. But something is wrong when school policy doesn't allow a student to sit alone and review during lunch. Perhaps the biggest problem lies in the fact that guards view this situation as the exception. I ask of my classmates, therefore: what are we doing in the hallways that necessitates such a cumbersome rule?

According to Principal Michael Griffith, the purpose of hall passes is *not to be obtrusive or initiate problems, but rather to maintain an academic atmosphere in halls. Because of Shaker's open campus policy, students should theoretically have a considerable amount of freedom moving through the school.*

One must ask, therefore: would it be necessary to intercept students en route to the bathroom to demand a hall pass if this simple privilege was not often abused? I doubt that our security guards get a thrill by blocking us from answering the occasional mid-class call of nature or by making us leave our quiet study spot in the hall. The aggravating rule boils down to the fact that guards have to require a pass from every innocent passerby because a number of these students are illegitimately out of class. Whether gabbing on their cell phones or just wandering the hallways to avoid a science lecture, these few are giving a bad rap to all students in the hall, even those who aren't bothering anyone. And because what we do to one student, we must do to all, security guards can't leave me alone but tell a student who has been loitering noisily around the bathroom for an hour that he needs to go back to class.

Griffith voiced that security guards are encouraged to use their own discretion in such cases; I wish that they exercised their judgment skills more often, therefore, in order to prevent unneeded conflicts. But at the same time, it saddens me that a large part of the student body is being restrained unnecessarily because some of our classmates fool around in the halls and deprive us of the privilege to move through the building without a pass. In a few short years, no one is going to be making sure we're heading to class and not dawdling or wasting time. High school is the time for loiterers to step up and assume this responsibility so the rest of us can get a drink of water or use our lunch periods productively without feeling like we're the ones being punished by the rules.

The Hip-Hop Connection

What does it mean when your teachers rap?

Rap is grabbing students' attention

By Leah Hitchens
STAFF REPORTER

Hip-hop has taken over.

Student Council candidates rap instead of making a speech, Shaker Radio consists entirely of hip-hop songs and girls come to school in outfits straight out of a Jay-Z video. Teachers are beginning to wonder where hip-hop culture ends and high school begins.

Math teacher Al Slawson, known throughout the school for his rap parodies, believes that incorporating rap and hip-hop in a school setting gets students to respond in a positive way. He creates new lyrics to popular rap songs to promote activities such as the United Way fund drive and sports games. Most recently, he performed a rap at a sophomore assembly promoting participation in the Ohio Graduation Test.

"I'm not putting down black culture," Slawson said. To him, it's more of an issue of message adaptation. Because there are so many negative messages in hip-hop music today, Slawson sees what he does as a contrast — coming at the students in a style that appeals to them while conveying a positive message.

"Rap is not the problem. The attitudes that are promoted through rap are the problem. Rap can be used for positive or negative. I have tried to use rap in a positive way to get people to give to United Way or do their best on the Ohio Graduation Test," he said.

Junior Tom Wilson sees the use of rap as a suggestion that black students are not receptive to anything else. He said it is "disenfranchising the African-American community."

"The ideal middle ground would be recognizing its prevalence," he said, adding that he is sure the trend would be different if the student body were predominantly white.

Wilson also mentioned how much of this year's Sankofa performance from the 1980s to the present focused on hip-hop. He believes that it limits students' perspectives on black history. However Sankofa leader senior LaDawn Thomas disagreed with this statement.

"Not only is hip-hop entertaining, but it's part of our culture. Sankofa has always had that hip-hop element. Most times people always want to see things that they already know," she said, adding that Sankofa is open to new members and ideas.

Senior Jarrell Hill also does not believe that teaching through rap limits black perspective.

"It's just about what's popular, and people think [rap] gets through to them," Hill said.

Slawson is as much into rapping as he is into exploring hip-hop culture in general. He began writing rap parodies in 1996, first writing new lyrics to Coolio and LV's "Gangsta's Paradise." Slawson used his "Algebra Paradise" for his CP Algebra class in an effort to get his students enthused about learning.

Senior Denise Mack considers using rap in school appropriate. "If they can name a better way to get through to students, then do that," she said.

Rapping in individual classrooms isn't as frequent as doing so for large groups such as assemblies, but whether rap should even hold such a prominent position in a school setting is a matter of opinion. "Right now it's at a bridge point. It could go either way," said psychology teacher Sally Hagstrand. "I've never personally used [rap] in my classroom."

Some teachers said that because it's easier to control students' attention in a classroom, using rap isn't really necessary. In an all-school assembly, however, it is harder to capture student attention for a longer time, so rap is used in these occasions more frequently.

This year at the welcoming assembly for the German exchange students, German Club presidents seniors Will Harwood and Kevin Strang rapped instead of giving a traditional speech.

"It's just a way to get student attention. It's fun and it had a positive message," Harwood said.

Bakari Kitwana, author of "The Hip Hop Generation" and "The Rap on Gangsta Rap," spoke at a Shaker faculty meeting last fall. Kitwana, a former editor of "The Source," a hip-hop magazine, tours the country speaking on rap music and the culture of black youth. He is regarded as one of the most influential analysts of rap and hip-hop culture.

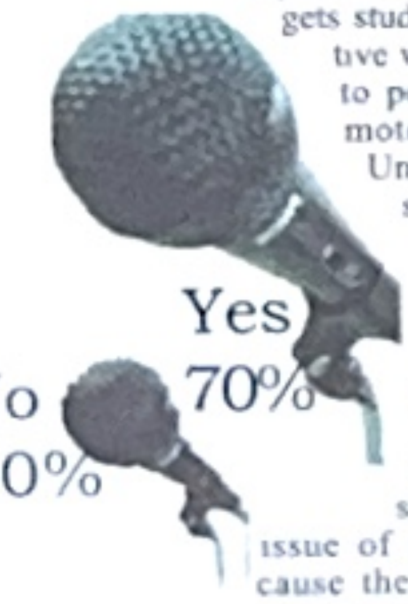
Erin Herbruck, who teaches social studies at Shaker Middle School, has incorporated a rap to introduce herself and her class policies on the first day of school.

"I think it's important to know about students' lives," she said. Herbruck added that she has never personally heard complaints from students who felt insulted or annoyed by her personal interpretation of rap culture. She has even added a project on the Bill of Rights that gives students an opportunity to give an oral presentation in the form of a rap.

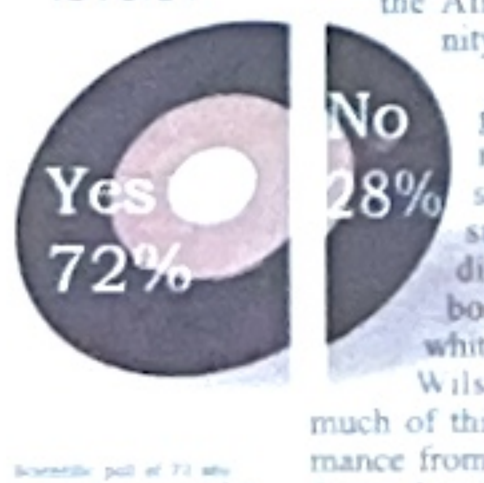
"They don't have to rap. A student once used a song from 'Mulan,' but most students choose to use raps because that's what they like," she said.

> "I have tried to use RAP in a positive way to get people to GIVE TO UNITED WAY or do their best on the OHIO GRADUATION TEST"
>
> Al Slawson
> teacher

Do you think that rap is an *effective* way to get students' attention?



Do you think that teachers are more likely to rap to CP classes than other levels?



Scientific poll of [illegible] students with a margin of error +/- [illegible] percent. Shakerite staff members telephoned students.

When does imitation cross the line to offensive?

By Jason Plautz
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

Six white teens from an affluent suburb, rapping and "runnin' from da cops," make up White Gangstaz, a group organized by a "wigga" who calls himself Deadbolt. He and his friends, the self-proclaimed "baddast most illest buncha gansta thugs in da universe," cruise around town in their "pimped-out" SUVs and Mercedes, wear "bling-bling" Rolex watches and hope to "take da rap world by storm," while impressing their "lady fans."

While the WGZ are only a tube of black face paint and a pair of white gloves away from being truly inappropriate, they are only a small part of the movement of white imitation of African-American culture. From Elvis to Eminem, Caucasians have been borrowing African-American music, dress, language and customs, with the most recent imitation occurring in hip-hop culture.

Senior Chris Lassiter has seen this phenomenon taking place, especially with rap music. "Today, black culture is more mainstream than ever," said Lassiter, adding that the highly publicized culture has made it easy for Caucasians to see and imitate it.

Sophomore Dante Zannoni echoed this statement. "[Rappers] are the role models for this generation," he said.

Sophomore Faith Hudson believes the imitation extends beyond the arts. "[They imitate] the whole style of hip-hop culture: how we dress, how we wear our hair, what music we listen to, how we dance . . . It's the new big thing that everybody wants to be a part of," she said.

The popularity of rap music has played a large part in the prominence of hip-hop in white culture. According to "Emerge" magazine, white consumers account for 71 percent of rap music sales. After buying the music, many listeners appropriate the culture associated with it, donning sagging pants and flashy jewelry and speaking slang.

This trend is often associated with music. Though the invention of jazz and many of its innovations are credited to black musicians, white musicians are largely responsible for popularizing the music. Elvis Presley studied from southern black musicians (many accuse him of stealing black rock 'n' roll). Most recently, Eminem became a popular rapper, performing the traditionally black style of music.

The trend is not limited to music alone. The high-five, an originally black gesture, has become a standard part of white culture, and the phrase "you go, girl" is now used by white girls. The word "wigga" has even been coined to describe a Caucasian aping African-American culture.

An old adage holds that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but controversy arises when examining the imitations' intentions. Though many view the imitation as a step toward acceptance, others see it as exploitative mockery, even a modern-day form of minstrel shows, the 19th and 20th-century form of entertainment in which white actors wore blackface and savagely parodied black slaves.

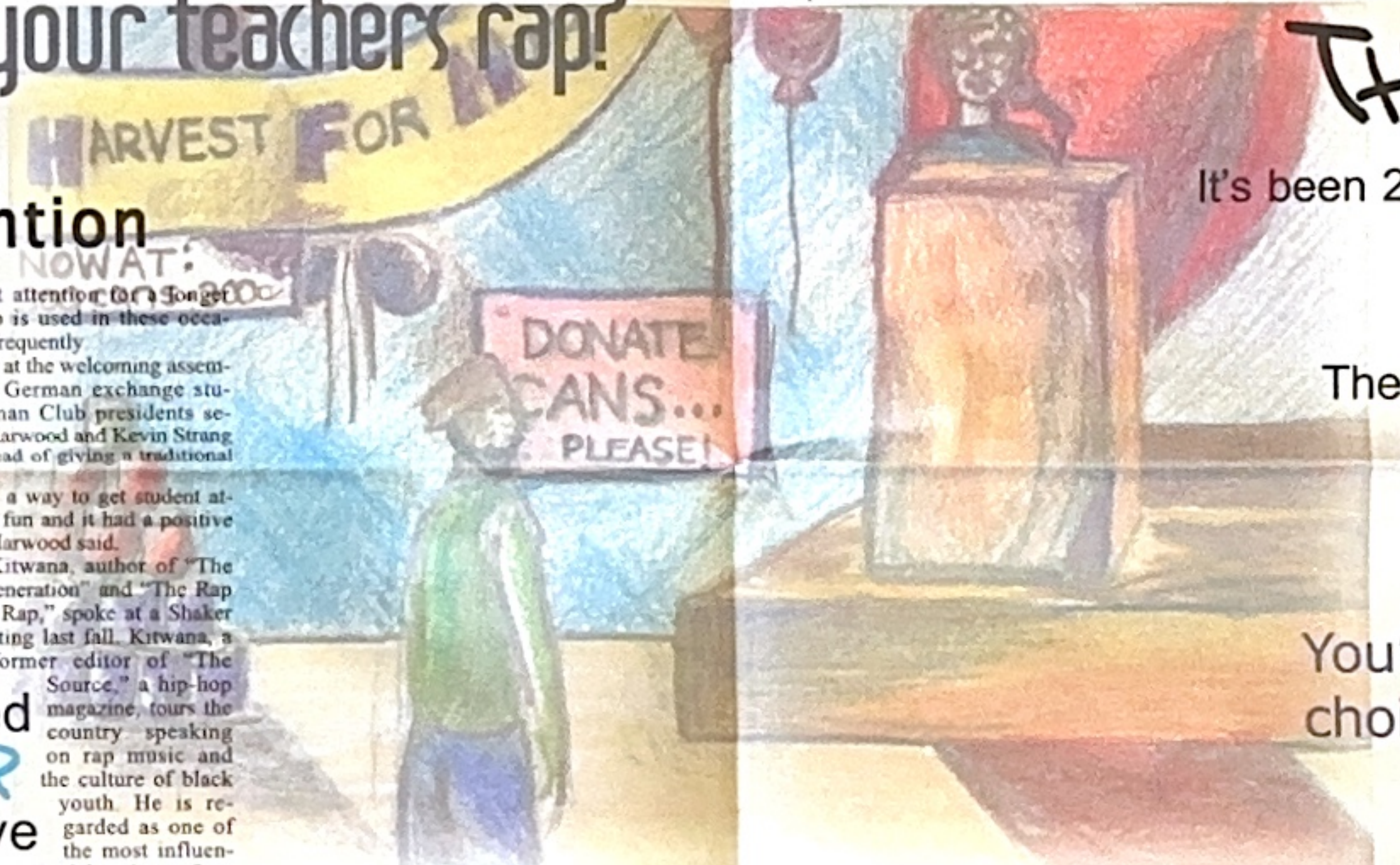
English teacher Dr. Yvonne Allen said the trend was, at best, short lived. She also felt it degraded individuality, offering "Wherever there's pride, it's certainly better to be yourself."

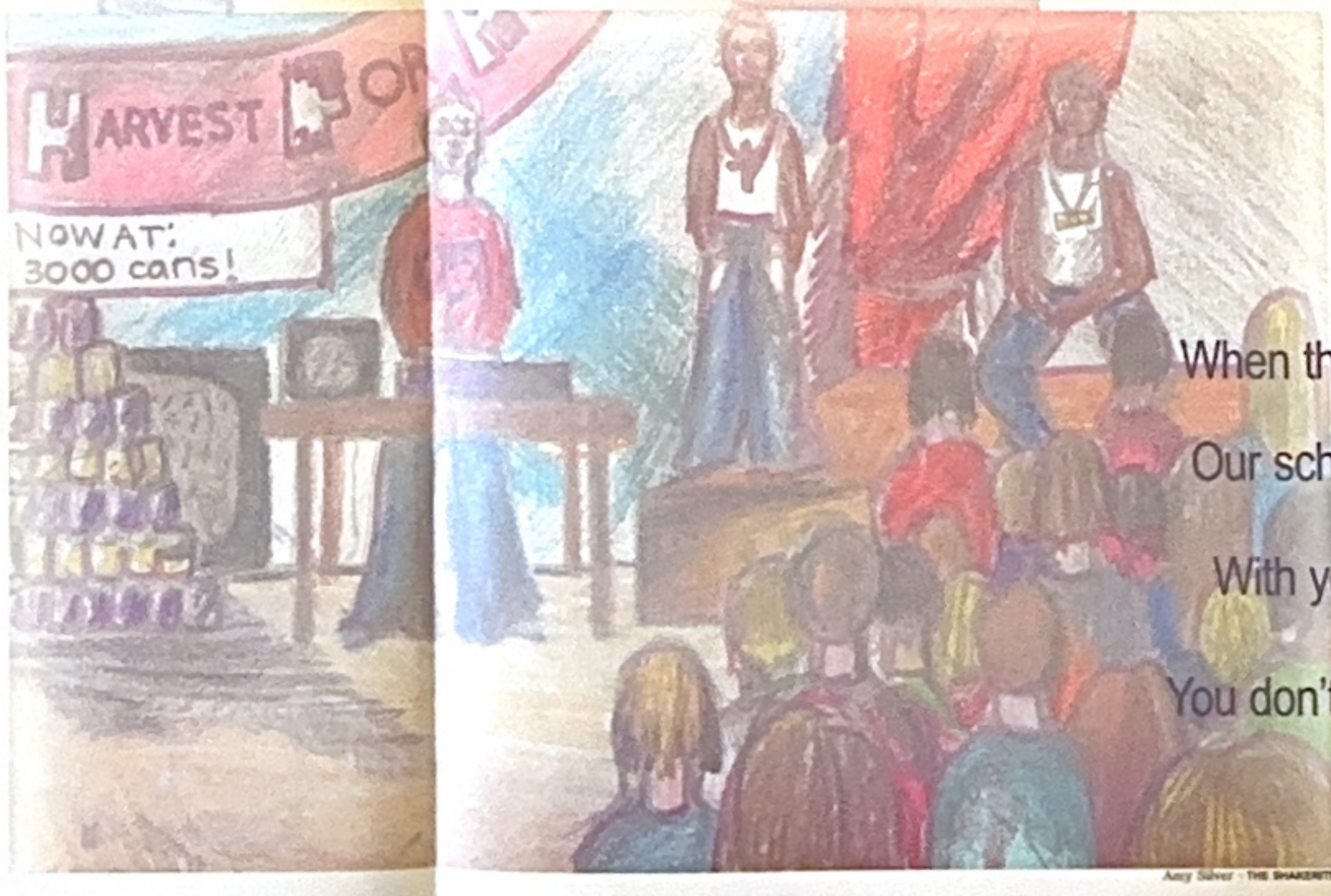
Allen thinks imitation becomes offensive when it doesn't acknowledge the richness of African-American culture. "[It's offensive] when someone with no substance is doing it and just reaching out to borrow the culture."

Hudson said that she is not offended by the modern phenomenon. "I think it's flattering," she said. "I don't view it as a negative."

Lassiter sees the movement as a step toward integration. "It leads to a sense of belonging where everyone knows about rap and the culture," he said. "However, if it's done blatantly to the point where you're literally making fun of somebody, it's insincere."

Upon viewing the WGZ website, Hudson, Lassiter and Zannoni did not find it offensive. "It's amusing," Hudson said. Zannoni found the antics "sarcastic," not mocking. Lassiter laughed, saying he would be offended if they used the n-word. "They're trying too hard," Lassiter said. "It's like a big joke. Nice cars, though."





Amy Silver / THE SHAKERITE

THE RAPS OF SHAKER

It's been 25 years and it keeps on goin'
Late '70s it started back when
we weren't even flowing
The goin' was tough and the tough kept goin'
Shaker-Goslar we scream,
'cuz we keep on showing

Will Harwood and Kevin Strang

You'll get a lot of
choices from A to Z
And any late work turned in
starts at a "C"
So starting today,
your grade is an **A**
And I'll guide you
along every day

Beginning of the Year Rap
Erin Herbruck

When the people see our score OH YEAH
Our school they will adore OH YEAH
With your brain in its top gear OH YEAH
You don't have a thing to fear OH YEAH

06-OGT-O Yeah!!!
Al Slawson

Spring into unpredictable Cleveland weather

March weather has been pretty mild so far, but before you start sporting your tank tops, T-shirts, shorts and flip-flops, you might want to keep in mind that the average Cleveland temperature in April is a chilly 48° F.

Although in years past temperatures once reached 73° F in January, 82° F in March and even 88° F in April, it has also snowed in June and been 4° F in late March.

On Friday, March 5, temperatures reached into the 70s, but by the following Friday, it had snowed. So remember, Cleveland weather is as predictable as Lil' Kim's hair color. Until June, you may want to keep the shorts in storage.

http://www.weatherchannel.com
-Liz Kantor

Sacrificing for the sake of religion

By Emily Ozan and Kelly Schaefer
PULSE EDITORS

Christianity is not the only religion that devotes a period of time to fasting and reflection. The Islamic calendar's ninth month, Ramadan, is a "month of blessing" during which followers pray, fast and focus on charity.

During Ramadan, practicing Muslims do not eat or drink anything from sunrise to sunset, including water. The practice of fasting is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Muslims fast to remember the plight of the less fortunate and to better connect with Allah.

The month concludes with the festival of Eid al-Fitr, which signifies the end of the fast. *People fill their homes with decorations and visit with family and friends.*

Passover is a Jewish holiday that begins on the fifteenth day of the Jewish month of Nissan, which falls this year on April 6. The holiday lasts for eight days for most American Jewish people and recalls the exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt 3000 years ago.

During this exodus, the Israelites did not have ample time to fully cook their bread and therefore ate unleavened bread called matzoh. Because of this, the traditions of the holiday require eating matzoh in place of bread and not eating any products with yeast or flour. Some people remove all such items from their homes.

The first two nights of the celebration each involve a ritual dinner and service known as a seder, during which Jewish people remember the story of their ancestors and eat with family and friends.

www.factmonster.com,
www.holidays.net

The intent behind Lent

•Some students observe the 40-day period in order to diet or to challenge themselves

By Anna Hutt
COPY EDITOR

If you want to hear about a challenging 40 days, ask senior Will Issa what he's giving up for Lent. But don't expect him to answer you before Easter.

Several Shaker students have taken a new angle on the religious period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, during which many Christians give up a certain luxury in order to commemorate Jesus' sojourn in the desert.

Father Jim VomTobel of the Gesu Parish in University Heights describes Lent as more than just an act of giving up something.

Issa

"You try to discipline yourself so, as they say, your heart is in the right place to prepare for the celebration of Easter," VomTobel said.

Issa, for example, has decided not to speak for the 40 days. He will only break the commitment if he needs to answer the phone.

"I'm not the most religious person," Issa said in a phone interview. "I'm mostly just doing it for the challenge."

Issa first thought of the idea last year when a classmate dared him not to speak for an entire day. Because the dare coincidentally occurred on Ash Wednesday, another classmate misunderstood and asked Issa if he was giving up talking for Lent.

"I thought, 'There's a challenge,'" Issa said. He decided to take that practice upon himself this year and since Ash Wednesday has communicated through writing notes.

Issa received a variety of reactions when his experiment began. "My mom at first was like, 'OK, fine, so you won't exist for the next 40 days.' She thought it was stupid; she refused to read my notes . . . but that changed about a week into it when she realized I was serious and not just doing it to annoy her."

> "I'm not the most religious person. I'm mostly just doing it for the challenge."
>
> Will Issa
> senior

According to Issa, most classmates were intrigued by his experiment and tried to get him to talk. Teachers have been fairly understanding. "It really hasn't made much of a difference because I usually sleep in class anyways," Issa said. "I got lucky that the classes that I [previously] talked the most in, the teachers have been understanding."

Religious value hasn't been a main motive for Issa, even though he is running his experiment under the title of Lent. He said no one has expressed offense, though many question his motives.

"Some people think it's how much I can piss people off," Issa said.

Other questions arose when Issa accepted a bet with a friend who thinks Issa won't be able to keep quiet until Easter April 11. "I do have a bet to win, but I'm not just doing it for the bet; it's just a nice subsidy. I'm doing it more for the challenge," he said. "It's better than the candy or Coke people tend to give up."

Even though Issa hasn't gained any religious inspiration from his experiment, he has begun to make observations that he never noticed before.

"With notes, because my handwriting is not the best, I write slowly if I want it to be legible. Before, I would be a smart-ass in class, but since it takes so long to get the notes out, I won't just make a smart-alec remark and pass it to someone," Issa said. "Also, I have noticed that I laugh a lot more."

Overall, the experience has been positive so far, and Issa hopes to repeat his observance in some form next year, though he is certainly planning on resuming his normal verbal activities after Easter this year.

"No vows of silence yet," he said.

Though perhaps not as drastic, junior Andy Volpe's Lent sacrifice has also called attention from classmates.

Wanting to give up a more tangible luxury, he decided to eliminate his biweekly habit eating fast food.

ARTS • Religious film, "Passion of the Christ" stirs emotions • page 12

"I never really gave up anything for Lent before . . . I don't really go to church that much," Volpe said. "It just happened."

Volpe said he was talking with his girlfriend the week before Lent and they decided to give up something "really big" together.

"Last year, a kid on my hockey team gave up french fries, and I thought it was a good idea," Volpe explained. He made the decision to eliminate Wendy's and all other fast food products from his diet, and so far he said he hasn't broken his challenge.

"There are three good things about it," Volpe said. "I save money, I keep my car clean, and I've lost about eight pounds." Volpe added that exercise probably contributed to his weight loss.

Like Issa, religious value isn't Volpe's main motive for making this sacrifice for Lent. "I just wanted to see if I could do it," he said. "It's like a diet, really. It's a good way to lose weight, you don't break out because of the grease, and you save a lot of money."

VomTobel does not think it is a problem that students like Volpe partake in Lent for nonreligious purposes.

"He's simply using the season to do something good," VomTobel said.

VomTobel does not believe this type of practice for Lent is offensive either.

"I think it would be sacrilegious if you were mocking it, but I think you'd be going a little overboard to get too upset about that," VomTobel added.

However, according to senior Christina Senagore, who takes Lent seriously for spiritual purposes, Lent dieters often miss the point of the observance.

"Giving up food is kind of like a diet, and that's not what Lent is about," Senagore said. "You're supposed to give up something that you really, really like so that you can focus on the meaning of Lent, recognizing what's inside of you. Or, you don't always have to give up something; it could be something extra you do."

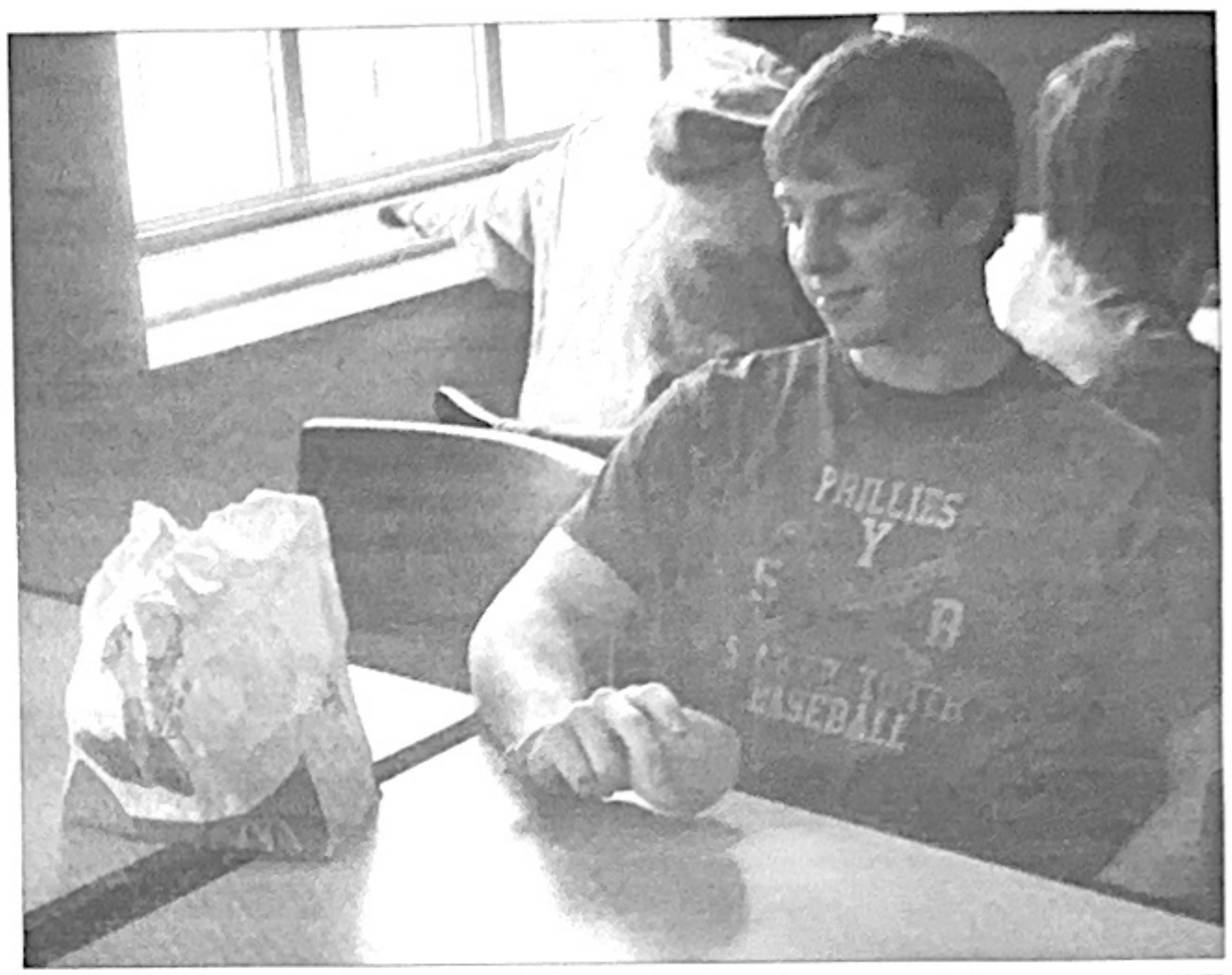


Photo Illustration by Matt Seidner • THE SHAKERITE

JUNIOR ANDY VOLPE trades in his bag of McDonald's fast food for an apple. Volpe gave up fast food for Lent, though not for religious purposes.

Because giving up food is difficult during a sports season and often leads to a misunderstanding of the meaning of Lent, Senagore decided to take a different angle this year.

She is observing Lent now by taking the time every day to walk her dog and brush her thoroughly afterwards. She said it has given her a new respect for her mother, who usually does all of this work by herself, and that it has also allowed her to notice how much the dog appreciates her love and attention.

"It's not equivalent to the New Years' resolution thing. You really appreciate everything around you that you don't normally notice," Senagore said.

She wasn't particularly offended by people who observed Lent for non-religious reasons but added that they might be missing the point. "I might disagree with that and think it's a waste, but it's up to them what they do," she said.

Senior Ashali Singham was also bemused by the idea of someone giving up a food or practice for Lent under non-religious motives. "I don't think it's a bad thing for anyone to do. I just think it's kind of funny," she said.

Like Senagore, Singham said that the meaning of Lent has been confused by a large number of people. "I think even for a lot of Catholics it doesn't have much religious meaning," Singham said.

> "Giving up food is kind of like a diet, and that's not what Lent is about."
>
> Christina Senagore
> senior

Volpe reiterated this point with his own example, saying that the observance of Lent has just become a mainstream American practice in many circles.

"It's become so diluted over the years, kind of like Christmas is [characterized by] presents, not Jesus," Volpe said.

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ShakerWRONG: April Fools' Edition 257
04.01.04

'American Idol' searches for Shaker stars

By Emizzle Ozizzle
STAFF SONGSTRESS

First it was Kelly Clarkson; then it was Ruben Studdard, and now it could be your science lab partner.

After Principal Michael Griffith and the rest of the administration saw the end of "American Idol" just before their "O.C." party began, they noticed an advertisement for "American Idol: High School Edition."

Instead of auditioning singers from populous cities such as New York and Los Angeles, the American Idol judges — Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell —have opted to hold them at American high schools.

On the strength of eager letters sent in by Griffith and his crew, Shaker made the top of the judges' list. After all, the school music department did earn a Grammy nomination.

"We are so famous! ABC, CNN and most importantly American Idol are coming to school," senior Susie Starstruck gushed.

Cowell and his cronies will select 10 finalists from the 1,805 Shaker students who will audition during the week after spring break. The finalists will compete at the high school finals in Hollywood in June. Students can vote for their favorite performer at www.shakerite.com.

The high school idol will snag a recording contract and will perform a debut concert at his or her high school.

"I think Shaker can provide a large group of talented young pop stars ready to take on Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake in the music industry," Abdul said.

However, regardless of Abdul's positive outlook, Cowell remains skeptical.

"Students are overconfident of their talents at this school. Most of the singing I have heard in the hallways was horrific and definitely not Idol-worthy," Cowell scoffed.

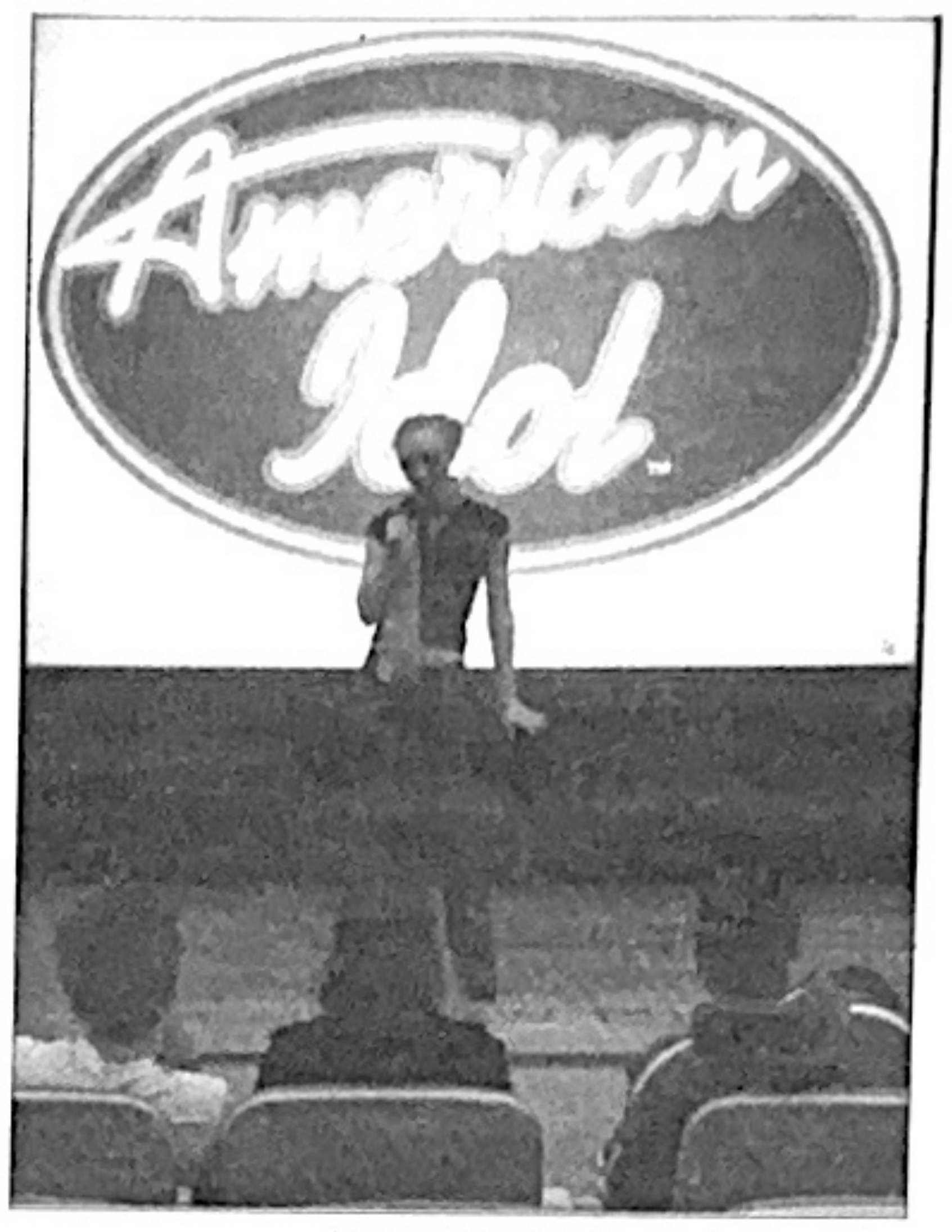


Photo Illustration by Hizzle Hazelizzle

DORA DIVALICIOUS AUDITIONS for "American Idol: High School Edition" in front of judges Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson, who are coming to the small auditorium the week after spring break.

Despite Cowell's objections, auditions will take place during the four minutes between classes. Although some students feel four minutes is not enough time to display their talents, others are not worried.

"Frankly, all the judges need to hear is one note out of my mouth and I'll be off to Hollywood. I sing everyday between classes and I never get told to stop by the security guards. That must mean they like what they hear," junior Jenny McLoudmouth boasted.

A stirring question in everyone's mind is what song to sing. Even though the popularity of rap is overwhelming at Shaker, the main focus of the show is singing and not rapping, to the dismay of many students.

"I wish the show involved rapping. I mean my flows could outdo any of those people who sing in the hallways," said freshman Guy Rhyme.

Music teacher Do Raymi is excited about the opportunity for her students.

"The Shaker students are sure to surpass all the William Hung's out there who sing 'She Bangs' and expect to become famous," Raymi said.

The new, high-tech small auditorium is the perfect setting for the performances. "I am very impressed with the small auditorium at the high school. However, it is so booked up during the day that we are forced to have auditions between classes," Jackson said.

Even though the majority of the student body are ecstatic about the upcoming contest, several teachers have voiced their complaints in a not so pleasing melody.

"First the front lawn fiasco with the seniors, and now "American Idol" auditions. When will the distractions stop so I can teach a class?" said English teacher John Killjoy.

Nonetheless, Griffith seems to join students in their excitement and can be heard singing along to his cell phone rings in his office.

It's a Joke

Gilmour fencing team attacks at wild match

By Wizzle Wemizzle
IDIOT IN CHIEF

In yet another example of post-game violence, the Shaker SWAT team descended on the high school fencing room after fans of the Gilmour Academy fencing team attacked members of the Shaker squad, causing Shaker fans to retaliate.

"It's was pandemonium. One minute I was moving in for the win, and the next, I was pinned up against the Pepsi machine," said Gilmour captain Kari Meback, who was treated for minor injuries after a disgruntled Shaker mom hit him with a copy of "The Da Vinci Code."

Approximately 50 fans were watching the match, and Head of Security Vic "the Slick" Ferrell became concerned when a *Gilmour fan* arrived with a plastic statue of the Buddha. "Hey, I thought it was a Catholic school," he said.

Ferrell said he hesitated to call police when the fight broke out, especially after last week's altercation between the Shaker and Mentor hunting teams left four officers "skunked" by the team's prey.

"I never want to place officers in harm's way, and for crying out loud, those dull-pointed swords can cause career-ending injuries," Ferrell said.

Mizzle Kizzle •THE SHAKERWRONG

According to witness accounts, a "very popular" and hunky Shaker senior stole the Buddha from two Gilmour sophomores after he attacked them from behind with a mop borrowed from the custodian's office. Gilmour's principal has cut all ties with Shaker until the Buddha is returned to the school.

"These Shaker kids are nothing but heathens and savages," said Gilmour Principal Bea Esser, who feels that though members of her school began the fight, Shaker should be held responsible for the damages.

"How our anointed students and parents stirred some feathers and threw some harmless punches is not at issue. They can do no harm. Come on, we all know how kids who go to public schools behave."

Psychology teacher Depin Thought feels that the sociological and anthropological roots of fencing may have fueled a fighting environment.

"Ever since the great Roman fencing tournaments of 43 B.C., the world has been fascinated with how people try to mindlessly hit others with metal rods. It also harkens back to the strumpet culture of France, where fencers were rewarded for their actions with forty pure virgins. Come on, why else would people want to dance around like idiots and swat at each other with swords?" he said.

It's a Joke

Vic "the Slick" has requested additional security for the anticipated showdown between Shaker and Hudson's Western Reserve Academy.

Student Council is sponsoring a spirit week leading up to the tourney, where students are encouraged to wear fencing costumes to all their classes, even though they are really hot and you can't see a damn thing out of those masks.

In-school sleepover extravaganza planned for seniors

By Kizzle Sizzle
WATER GIRL

In a moving speech to the senior class on the front lawn last week, Principal Michael Griffith announced that he will host a senior in-school sleepover April 16 to replace the front lawn campout.

Dressed in Spongebob SquarePants pajamas to publicize the event, Griffith expressed his regret over canceling pep rallies and depriving the class of an important high school ritual.

"This is an opportunity for the class to bond. We will be providing free hair ties for those who wish to braid hair and free nail polish for the aesthetically-inclined," Griffith said.

During the first half of the speech, Griffith received a call on his cell phone and subsequently announced that the security guards had just signed on as the entertainment for the sleepover. A well-known security guard who left the high school will be making a return appearance with several admiring students. He will perform on the staircase railings.

It's a Joke

The class of '01 has promised to provide alcohol-free punch, among other refreshments, in the custodians' office.

The Shaker Heights Police Department has assigned two officers to monitor the school during the festivities. Officer Liven Well is excited about the event.

"Shaker is known for not having any disciplinary problems at school functions, so I was happy to be assigned there," Well said.

The newly renovated small auditorium will be decorated with an eighteenth birthday party theme, and all newly 18-year-old seniors can bring a risqué movie of their choice to show on the large screen. Admittance is limited to 18-year-olds and will be done on the honor system.

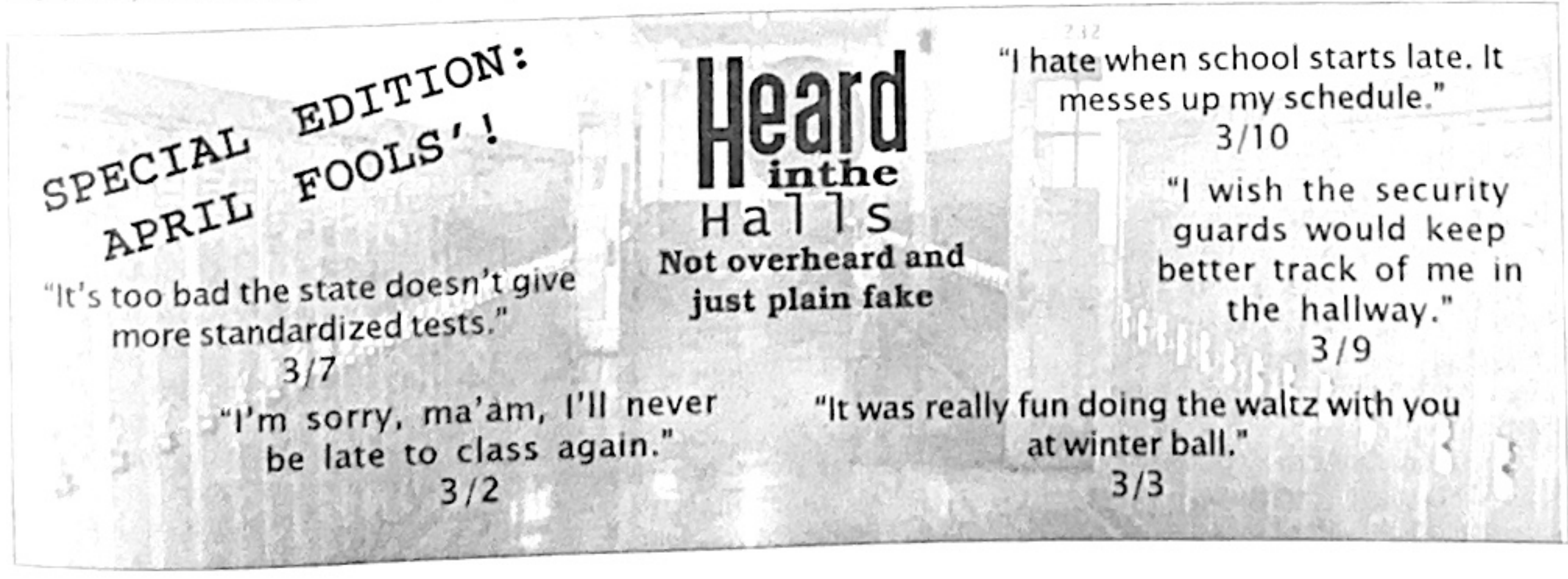
Additional sleepover activities include a school-wide pillow fight led by assistant principals, and the lunch aides are planning a food fight manned by lunch line regulars.

Assistant Principal Neil Glazer will be recounting civil war stories dressed in army attire at a bonfire in the courtyard. Science class chemical supplies will fuel the fire.

At the end of his tales, Glazer will assist students in building forts from the school's outdated computer monitors.

The featured speaker of the evening will be LeBron James. He will showcase his automobiles in the north gym and give a speech on the benefits of a college education from the roof of his Hummer.

For-rent sleeping bags will be available at the bookstore one week preceding the event. The sleeping bags can be zipped together to accommodate two or even three seniors.



SPECIAL EDITION:
APRIL FOOLS'!

Heard in the Halls
Not overheard and just plain fake

"It's too bad the state doesn't give more standardized tests."
3/7

"I'm sorry, ma'am, I'll never be late to class again."
3/2

"I hate when school starts late. It messes up my schedule."
3/10

"I wish the security guards would keep better track of me in the hallway."
3/9

"It was really fun doing the waltz with you at winter ball."
3/3

THE IMPROV SHOW, well known for mixing things up, offered a revision of the timeless adage: now, fourth time's the charm. After three cancellations, the Improv show was performed on March 7 at Plymouth Church, a location that, according to junior Emily Seger, "allowed [the group] to make lots of religious jokes." There was a minuscule audience due to the performers' decision not to have official publicity, relying on word-of-mouth. For all those who missed it, three of the senior members -- Tim Israel, Mitch Frank and David Jackson -- are planning a revival of the show for their senior project in June.

<<<<<<Impromptu Improv

five MINUTE critic

Twisted

Starring: Ashley Judd, Andy Garcia, Samuel L. Jackson
Director: Philip Kaufman

In this suspense thriller, detectives Jessica Shepard (Judd) and Mike Delmarco (Garcia) investigate murders executed by a female serial killer. The victims have all slept with Shepard. Though he has been like a father to her, the police commissioner (Jackson) begins to suspect Shepard because she lacks an alibi. "Twisted" is well acted and entertaining. However, the story often defies logic. Several characters are portrayed as potential suspects, but it is likely that many viewers will "crack the case" early on. Such ease in solving the entire crime within 15 minutes significantly takes *away from the joy of the acting performances*, making it overall an average film.

★★
out of five

Allen Eckhouse

Absolution

Muse

Rock music is about to find its muse in a trio from Devon, England. Beginning with the crushing and oppressive "Apocalypse Please" and ending with the pained piano concerto "Ruled by Secrecy," Absolution is far more epic and innovative than any album released in the past year. Lead singer Matt Bellamy sings about being controlled by a government run amok, feeling helpless to do anything about it, and distorting the truth for personal gain. Album standouts are the almost Beatle-like "Falling Away With You," the destructive "Hysteria," and the fantastic rock opera "Butterflies and Hurricanes."

★★★★★
out of five

Matt Seidner

How an old space evolved to host New Stages

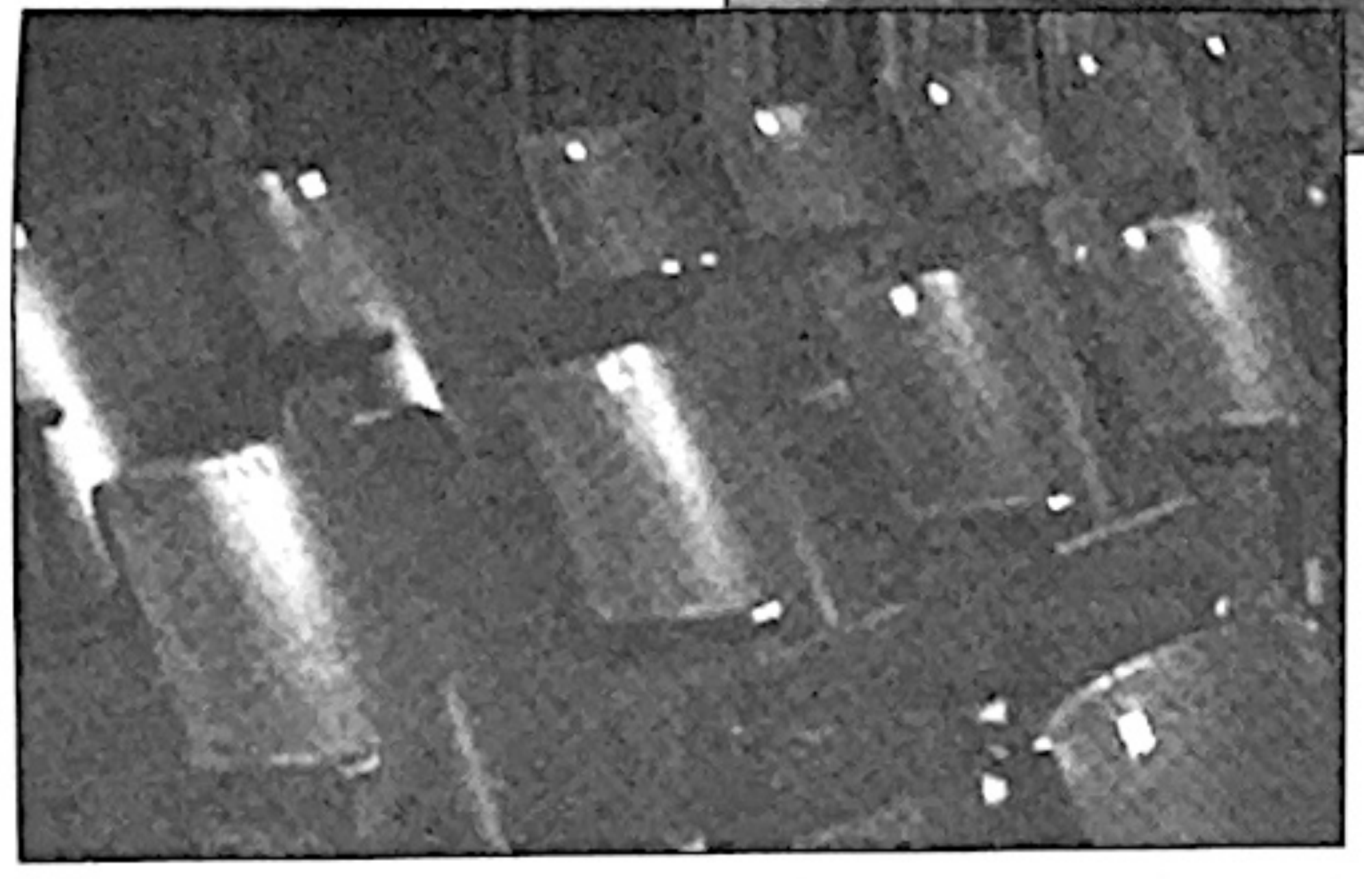
• Stage 3's underground history

This is New Stages' 22nd year. Seven performances of **student written plays** were staged March 16 to March 20. Theater Department Chairman James Thornton originally conceived the idea for New Stages. "If you're going to write, **you may as well produce**," Thornton decided after having taught film and then playwriting.

Each rendition of New Stages presents **seven plays**, thus there are seven playwrights, seven directors and seven assistant directors: **21 non-cast members** automatically involved in each show. Each show generally casts between two and 12 members.

Stage 3 was **designed by Amy Silberman** ('81). Previously, the space was used for old, dirty lumber. Silberman had the idea to have a **black box theater** there instead and crafted a floor plan for such a theater. She never lived to see the area as it is today because she was killed on New Year's Eve of 1994 in New Orleans after a stray bullet struck her in the head.

According to Thornton, the **theater department used its own resources** to transform the area that would become Stage 3. Theater **students bought paint** to decorate the walls themselves. The **seats** in Stage 3 are from Thornton's old company, as are the **light boards** and the **curtains**. The hallway in which student art is displayed during the performances is known as **the "Mom gallery"** because the word "mom" was written there in graffiti before *the theater students painted the walls.*



New Stages once took place in the large auditorium. It first moved to the Stage 3 black box location in the spring of 1982. Last year, New Stages moved to the **First Unitarian Church of Cleveland** for the Saturday performance because of a **power outage** at the high school. "It was certainly not the same ambiance, but it **showed our spirit**," Thornton said.

The space holds **87 seats**. This includes stools in back. Because Stage 3 is small, the audience is put in **close proximity to the performers**. "The space is very appropriate to the show because it probably wouldn't work as well in the large auditorium. It's **a more personal experience** than a main stage production," senior David Jackson said.

Thornton predicts that **New Stages will continue** in the future. "It's been so successful and playwriting class had been so successful that I can't imagine that it won't continue," said Thornton.

By December Kinney,
Photos by Lauren Alexander and Hilry Hazelwood

A movie that evokes a 'Passion'ate response

BETTY ELEE
NEWS EDITOR

Stepping into the Shaker Cinema to see "The Passion of the Christ," I was surprised that the theater was packed. It was Saturday afternoon, and the film had debuted three days earlier. I hurried to find a seat.

The audience's outbursts and sniffles told me some felt the movie violent or dramatic. Gibson uses the graphic visions of Sister Anne Emmerich (an 1800s Augustian nun) and Mary of Agreda (an 1600s Spanish nun) in addition to biblical accounts. Judas (Jesus' betrayer) lost his mind and saw horror-movie-like creatures (perhaps Freddy Kruger's minions?). The heightened sound effects of flesh being ripped out by the cat-o'-nine-tails whip was Braveheart-ish. If I had a weaker stomach, I would have felt nauseated; as it stands, I soon became desensitized to the violence.

I can see how some may consider the film anti-Semitic. Visions of the 1920 Nazi propaganda film "The Golem" popped into my head while viewing "Passion." I initially watched "Golem" with my Jewish buddy Allie Jennings and viewed it again to make film comparisons. In "Golem", Jewish people are portrayed as a horde of curly-beard-wearing, shriveled people who raise the dead. "Passion" isn't as blatantly anti-Semitic; one could hate the Roman guards who scourge Jesus as much as one could despair about the Jewish prophets who abandon him in Gethsemane Garden.

One point Sun Press editor Mary Jane Skala made was that anyone who hated Jews after the film was probably anti-Semitic before they even saw it. Satan, presented as a black-cloaked, pale female with the voice of a man, was ever present, urging on the hatred of any susceptible person. This depiction may seem misogynistic of Gibson; however, I think Mary and Mary Magdalene's portrayal as loving caregiver and devout follower, respectively, is stronger.

"Passion" may have subtly tried to convert people, but I think the superior message was to inspire hope. The film ended with a glowing Christ leaving the tomb to spread His word. Later, I looked at strangers and didn't see them as people who might kill me, but rather as humans with worries and friends. Gibson exhibits one idea on what God means to him. He just did it on a larger-than-life scale.

After "Passion", stragglers reflected or cried. It's of little consequence whether they were Biblically-literate or religious: the story's emotional prowess was enough to move or disturb its viewers.

It was an allegory: the literal story is Jesus suffered, died, and rose again, and the metaphorical story is we all suffer, die little deaths, and resiliently rise to new heights. Some viewers, like Christians, could find the sacrificial death hopeful; others can relate to the persecuted underdog's plight.

Overall, I think Gibson accomplished what the early prophets could only do in the shadows: he related his beliefs to an immense, curious audience. "Passion" ends on a positive note: Christ conquers death, ready for new challenges - an ending humans facing personal battles might find uplifting.

Hold the phone! It's prime time

By Abby Hexter
BUSINESS MANAGER

I can't talk on the phone. I can't read or do my homework. I am not to be disturbed or interrupted for any reason whatsoever. It is 8:59 on Sunday night and for the next 57 minutes my life will be completely devoted to one thing: television. With my munchies and remote in hand, I will sit down and watch an all-new episode of "Alias," a heart-pounding, action-packed drama on ABC that has made my Sunday nights bearable for the last three years.

> "We are allowed to talk during commercials, but otherwise we are silent."
>
> Eliana Penzner
> senior

Along with other television devotees, I have been known to dedicate countless hours to absorbing the storylines and relating to the characters that pass through my home during prime time. This obsession-like relationship with television is not entirely a new entity, but has been more evident with newer programs.

O.C.
SONY
MAIL
Mike Koler • THE SHAKERITE

"The O.C.," a 90210-esqe drama geared towards teenagers airing Wednesday nights on FOX, has prompted some Shaker students to participate in "O.C. parties." These get-togethers are devoted entirely to watching and commenting about the show. Senior Eliana Penzner participates in the parties along with friends.

"We go to a different person's house every week and watch the show. We are allowed to talk during commercials, but otherwise we are silent," Penzner said. "It has such a dramatic storyline, you just get hooked on it," she said.

It's a comfort to know that new shows such as "The O.C." bring promise of enthralling entertainment to satisfy my obsessive needs. However, shows that have been staples in the viewing line-up such as "Friends" are making their final appearances this season. While I personally feel a void without the antics of the women of "Sex in the City." who showed their faces for the last time on HBO Feb. 22, junior Elizabeth Griffith is apathetic toward the loss of the show.

"I'm not that upset that it's ending, because I thought it was getting pretty bad," Griffith said.

With "Sex in the City" over, something else must fill Sunday nights. I am partial to "Alias," which I am able to watch thanks to a nifty multi-recorder called TiVo. Others may prefer "The Sopranos," a mafia drama that took the 9 p.m. slot on HBO. Many will stick with "The Simpsons," the longest running animated comedy on television. "The Practice," which airs Sundays at 10 p.m. on ABC, also affects students.

" 'The Practice' is the best thing on TV. If it was cancelled, I'd try to find another show, but nobody's as hot as James Spader," said senior Ben Atkinson, jokingly referring to a guest star that recently joined the cast of the courtroom drama.

Poor Ben; he must have missed the news of this show's impending cancellation. The final episode is set to air on May 16, but never fear: a spin-off program is in the works. There is also a possible Joey-centered spin-off of "Friends." Cancellations may never disappear; perhaps appointment TV addicts will learn to survive on spin-offs.

---

five MINUTE critic

Def Poetry Jam

Artists: Various
Concert Date: March 7

For one hour, the intimate Ohio Theatre showcased the talents of seven poets. The performers, who were only in Cleveland for one day, made the experience worthwhile. Though only five of the poets had also appeared as the original Broadway cast, all of them sounded like pros on the stage. Using minimal stage design and casual dress, the amazing performance began as soon as they opened their mouths. Ruling no topic too controversial to discuss, the poets unleashed their feelings of passion, humor, fury, sadness and love. They effectively portrayed emotion with the beauty and rhythm of their spoken words. Laughter, applause and shouts of approval erupted frequently from the crowd before the poems were finished. The poets reflected on everything from relationships to jail to memories of childhood cooking. DJ Jedi, who spun records to complement the poems, enhanced the experience. With the strong ending performance of the poem "I Write America," the auditorium once again erupted with everyone on their feet.

★★★★★
out of five

Marguerite Moore

Shaker students say 'Salve, Italia'

• *Band and art students to experience culture of Italy during spring break*

By Jason Plautz
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

Say goodbye to boring field trips downtown to hear a lecture or see a movie. For band and art students, field trips are being redefined as weeklong vacations across the Atlantic.

Almost 200 band students and 22 AP Portfolio students will be traveling to Italy over spring break. Band students will be touring Sorrento, the Amalfi coast and Rome. Portfolio students plan to visit Milan, Rome, Florence and Venice, in addition to spending a day at the French Riviera with a special focus on viewing art.

Portfolio students will be traveling overseas for 11 days on the first of what teacher Dan Whitely hopes will be a series of annual art trips to Europe. Whitely said that researching the High Renaissance is a large part of his art curriculum and that by viewing the art first-hand, his students will gain a greater admiration for antiquities.

"They have the skill and the eye to appreciate the art," Whitely said.

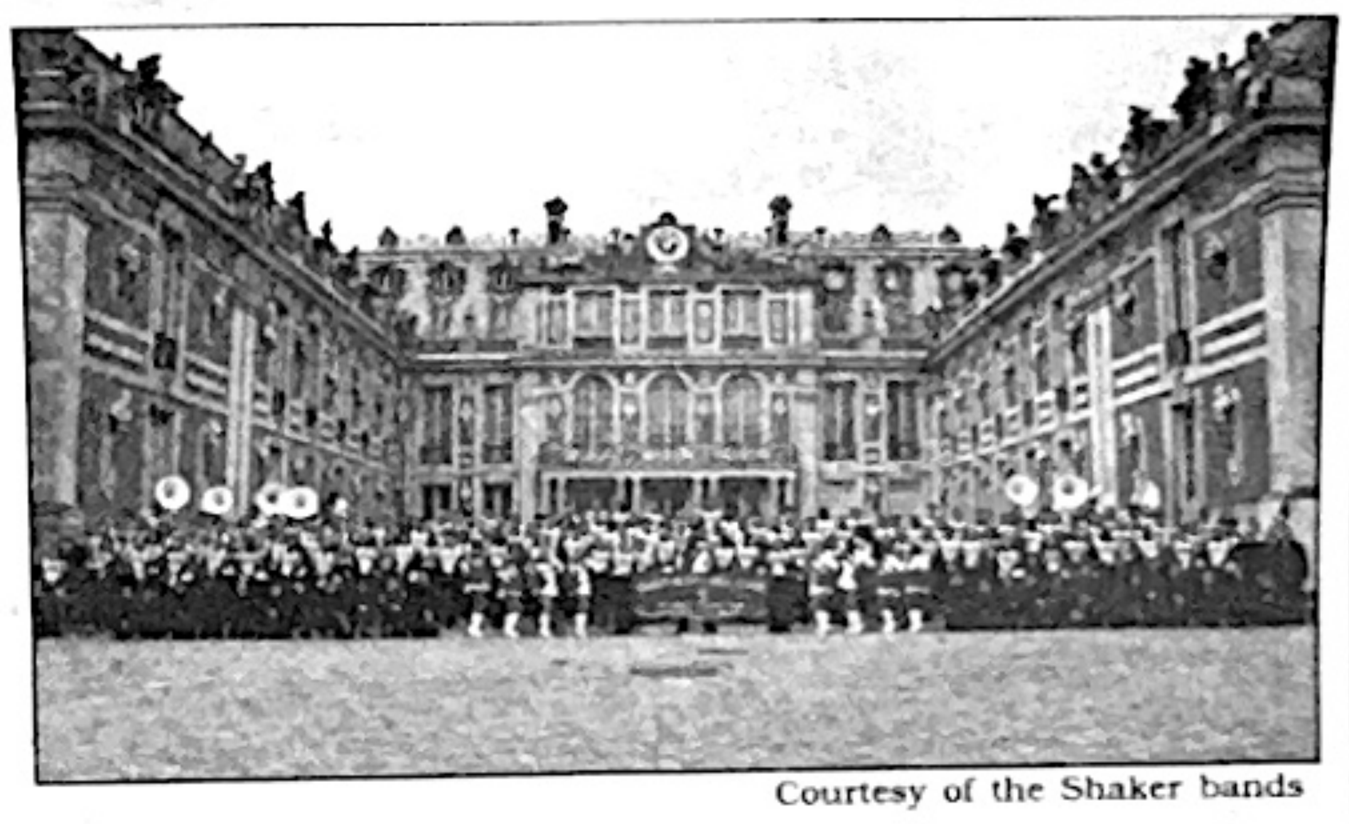
Senior Andrea Kutik, a portfolio student, shares the belief that a hands-on experience is the best way to gain this appreciation. "Italy produced some of the greatest art in Western civilization . . . this will be different than looking at pictures in a textbook," Kutik said.

Kutik hopes that this trip will help her grow as an artist as well. "I'm hoping to see some of the great art and learn from it," she said. "Art is what I love, and I want to go on a trip focused on it."

Whitely plans to visit many of the famous art sites in Italy, but also thinks his students should experience the atmosphere of the country. "We want to see all the in art in Rome, but see all the people, too," Whitely said.

The band, on its fifth trip overseas, will focus on performance and on exploring Italian culture. Trip organizers hope that by performing in three different locations, the students will serve as musical ambassadors. Security has not yet been addressed in meetings for either trip.

"We are representing our community and our country musically," said Tom Deep, high school director of bands, at a March 8 meeting with parents and students.


Courtesy of the Shaker bands

THE SHAKER MARCHING band visited Versailles as a part of their 2001 trip to France.

Deep said many Europeans are not accustomed to seeing large marching bands and he hopes Shaker will introduce them to the style.

For some of the traveling musicians, the journey isn't primarily about performing.

"I'm going to just have some fun and see another country," said sophomore Andy Harding, a trumpet player who plans to participate.

However, Harding did say that he agreed with Deep's statement about representing America. "Whenever you go to another country, you make an impression. We're setting an example for how American citizens act," Harding said.

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Being a Shaker athlete . . . priceless.

Average cost per athlete for:

X-country spikes and running shoes	$ 110
Men's tennis racket	$ 140
Women's lacrosse equipment	$ 185
Men's lacrosse equipment	$ 400
Women's golf clubs and bag	$ 500
Football equipment	$ 350
Hockey equipment	$ 860
Total cost of a Vespoli eight-person rowing shell	$ 17000

Compiled by David O'Connell and Meagan Steiner

Rucker wants to rally tennis team to states

•Sophomore singles standout continues family tradition

By Marguerite Moore
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

For the Ruckers, tennis runs in the family. Amber Rucker ('03) was a state competitor last year representing the Raiders and lost only four matches during her last two seasons. It seems that younger brother Maurice is continuing the tradition.

Maurice, a sophomore, played first singles varsity as a freshman. He has been playing since he was five and competing in individual tournaments since he was 10.

"My dad used to play, so I wanted to get into it, too," he said. "Also, I used to watch a lot of tennis on TV."

Although he has only played one season of high school tennis, Maurice already stands out.

"He's a very talented player," head coach Al Slawson said. "As a freshman he was first singles on a pretty good team. That's quite an accomplishment."

Slawson met Rucker six years ago while attending a summer tennis camp that Slawson ran.

"He's a fun-loving guy. He enjoys being a part of the team," Slawson said.

"He's one of a kind," tennis player Matt Khanna, a junior, agreed. "I'm impressed by how good he is."

While the tennis season is only three months long, Maurice practices and participates in individual tournaments year-round. During the season, he plays every day, and last summer he practiced two to three times a week. Though his record last season was 13-15, it doesn't reflect his skill.

"As a first singles freshman, he's playing the best players from the other schools," Slawson said. "It is much harder to win. Most freshmen don't play first singles."

Maurice's mother, Rose, attends most of his matches and is very proud of his achievements.

"I'm proud of what he has done thus far and I hope it allows to take him wherever he wants it to go. Hopefully, he'll play on the college level and we'll see where it goes from there," she said.

> "He set an example that the younger kids can make a high spot on the team."
>
> Matt Khanna
> Junior tennis player

While his sister was also successful on the high school level, Maurice feels no pressure. This could come from his concentration while on the court, which starts right before his matches.

"I just talk to myself and think about how I'm going to beat the person," Rucker said.

"He gets really into it," teammate junior Adam Margolius said. "He wants to win more than anyone else."

"On the court he's kind of a nutcase," teammate junior Justin Greenlee agreed. "He screams and yells and throws his racket. But off the court he's a lot more easy going. He acts more mature off the court than on," he said.

Despite becoming aggravated during matches, Khanna said that Maurice never expresses such frustration toward his teammates.

"He'll get angry, but he's only showing his frustration in ways that other people don't. He won't yell at other people," he said.

Greenlee, who met Maurice during the summer of seventh grade at a tennis clinic, believes that his spirit and enthusiasm also make him an asset to the team.

"He's a fun guy. He likes to get the guys going with a chant or a song. He always wants to get you energized," he said.

Khanna said some of Maurice's teammates also see him as a role model.

"Probably the younger kids and the freshmen look up to him," he said.

"He was first singles as a freshman, so he set an example that the younger kids can make a high spot on the team," he said.

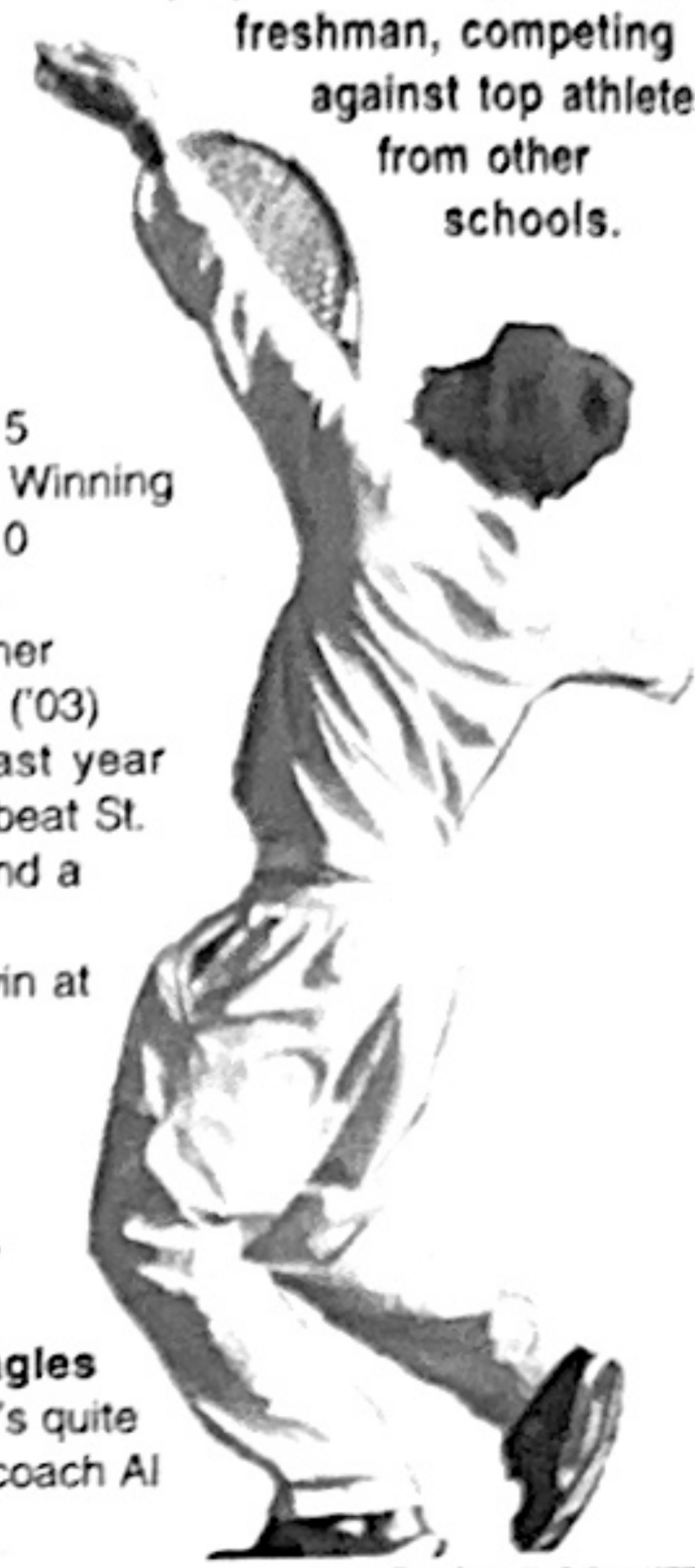
One of Maurice's highlights last season was defeating a Solon player.

"The team lost 3-2, but it was my biggest win of the year because he was a really good player," he said. While last season was fulfilling, Maurice hopes to get a full tennis scholarship for college and has goals set out for this season.

"We're going to try to get to states this time. We're going to win districts and beat St. Ignatius," he said.

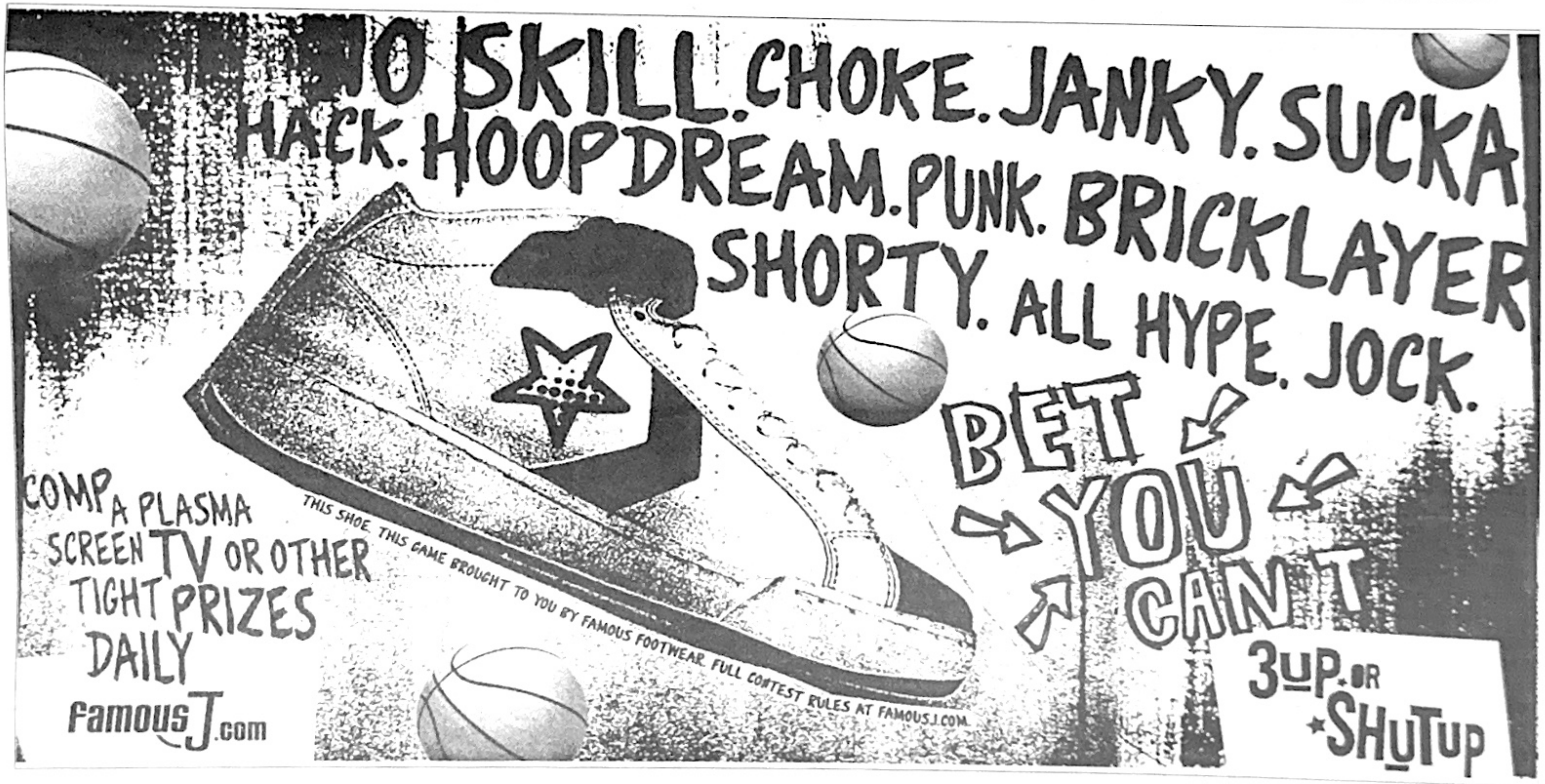
MAURICE RUCKER

- Began playing tennis: Age 5
- Years playing varsity: 2
- Height: 6'
- Weight: 155
- **Record** last season: 13-15
- Greatest accomplishment: Winning **first tournament** at age 10
- Role model: Pete Sampras
- Background in tennis: Father played tennis, sister Amber ('03) was a **state competitor** last year
- Goals for this season: To beat St. Ignatius and **win** districts and a state title
- Goal for high school: To win at least two **state titles**
- Future plans: Get a full **tennis scholarship** for college
- Coach quote: "He's a very talented player. . . as a freshman he was **first singles** on a pretty good team. That's quite an accomplishment," head coach Al Slawson said.



SOPHOMORE MAURICE RUCKER serves at practice March 10. Maurice played first singles as a freshman, competing against top athletes from other schools.

Dan Snider •THE SHAKERITE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BY the NUMBERS

PRESEASON EDITION

Compiled by David O'Connell

•Spring is here! Preview the status, goals, leaders and greatest competitors of Shaker's incoming spring sports teams

BASEBALL

- Shaker's **greatest rival** will be Mentor, who defeated the Raiders last year in the district finals and were co-champions in the LEL.
- The team will be **led by** senior captains Steve O'Connell, Jerrel Johnson and Arden McWilliams.
- "We have good pitchers and all the tools to go far this season," said Johnson, a second baseman.

WOMEN'S TRACK

- Three of the four Adidas Outdoor Championships **placers** - seniors Kenelle Hughley and Amani Floyd and sophomore Brittany Mosely - are returning.
- Their most **competitive** meet will be at Bedford May 8.
- "We have a pretty hard schedule, but we have a good group of potential girls," Mosely said.

MEN'S TRACK

- The Raiders' **greatest loss** was Terrell Thompson ('03).
- Winston Witherspoon will be team **captain** this season.
- Shaker will compete against Cleveland Heights April 28 at home.
- "I'm pretty excited for the season," said senior Winston Weatherspoon. He said the runners who graduated would push the team a lot during practice.

Lax players no longer lax on eye protection

Dan Snider •THE SHAKERITE

SENIOR MANDY KOVACH sports the new women's lacrosse goggles during practice at Woodbury March 10. US Lacrosse and NFHS recently decided to mandate eye protection.

By Meagan Steiner
SPORTS EDITOR

What's itchy, looks like the inside of a prison cell and leaves red marks on your face like the ones from your chemistry lab goggles?

The newly mandated eye protection that will soon top off women's lacrosse players' ensemble of plaid kilts and cleats.

"It's hard to see because the bars get in the way of you vision of the ball," senior Bridget Gilbride said. "They're very different from what we're used to."

The National Federation of State High School Associations voted last June to require eye protection for high school women's lacrosse beginning in 2004. Though not all teams are members of NFHS, US Lacrosse, the rule-making organization for all teams, will also make eye protection mandatory for high school teams in 2005.

Men's lacrosse players already wear helmets with facemasks because they play with more contact.

The Shaker women's lacrosse team's goggles resemble a cage strapped across the eyes, with vertical and horizontal bars limiting peripheral vision. Players must purchase their own pair for $47. Shaker was exposed to the goggles when Upper Arlington wore them at the state championship game last year.

Senior Ashley Wood, a captain, doubts goggles are necessary.

"It's not like you get hit that much in your face. I mean, I played three years without them and I never got hurt," she said. She and Gilbride haven't heard an eye injury on the team.

NFHS decided to require eye protection because about 60 percent of high school lacrosse players live in New York and Massachusetts, where it is already mandatory, or New Jersey, which was anticipated to require it this season. Also, an adequate number of goggles approved by the American Society for Testing Materials will be on the market, according to a July 8 NFHS news release. Women's lacrosse coach Liz Wilson said her team has had minor eye injuries and that though such injuries are rare, they can be serious.

"I think it's probably a pretty good thing to require, particularly with the women's game becoming a more powerfully played game," Wilson said. "It's been a long discussion over the years, but I guess I could say at least it's not a helmet."

Captains serve as liasons, leaders and role models

•Teams use voting, coach selection and seniority when picking their captains

From CAPTAIN Page 1

good leader. He said Antal took initiative to write an essay on "mental toughness."

Sedmak said there are vocal captains, who are confident and outspoken, and example captains, who have less self-confidence and lead more by example than verbal direction. Especially among teens, the vocal captains are less common.

"Most high school coaches complain that teenagers today aren't leaders the way they used to be and don't take charge as much," Sedmak said. He believes that because organized community sports are more common today than neighborhood pick-up games, fewer natural leaders surface. For the first year, therefore, Sedmak has already started leadership training for next year's seniors. "It's not just going to happen by itself," he said.

Sports Booster Co-President Joanne Weiss also sees the necessity of training leaders. "I don't think that kids get leadership skills whether they are in sports or not," she said. The Sports Boosters held their second leadership clinic Sept. 14 for varsity captains, co-captains and coaches. Leslie Yerkes, who ran the clinic, discussed important qualities and methods of teamwork.

"As captains and co-captains, they could use some of these tools to bring back to their teams," Weiss said.

Most coaches agree on criteria for captains but use diverse selections methods. The men's lacrosse team votes for their three captains, who can be juniors or seniors and defensive or offensive players. Gallagher said it's challenge "to get through the popularity contest to find out who can aspire to be a leader and work through that 'Hey, I'm good; everybody likes me.'"

Still, senior David Schwartz, who plays varsity football and lacrosse, prefers this method. "This way it's more of who the team respects," he said.

Wrestling coach Mark Enie uses a more objective off-season points system, but he also gives seniors priority. "It really is not a challenge because we put it in the athletes' hands," Enie said. "They kind of make or break themselves. If I had every single senior on the team doing great in weight training and off-season, then every senior would be a captain."

On the swimming and football teams, where every senior is a captain, this idea is a reality. This year the football team had more than 20 captains.

According to coach Henry Woodard, the women's track team had captains for the first time 10 years ago; previously, each player acted as her own captain. Now the team has specific event captins who act as coaches on the field.

Teams such as track and cross-country focus on individual performance and thus pose a challenge to captains. "Because it's such an individual sport, different people compete at different levels. As a captain you must encourage not just the fastest runner, but everyone who works hard out there," Heeger said. "Really, what I tried to do as a captain was to make sure the whole team was there every day and ready to do the full workout."

When choosing a captain, Schmidt wants to be "able to trust that when I'm not around they are acting the way they are supposed to act." He notes the importance of positive peer pressure. "There are certain things that mean more when they come from peers, not adults," he said.

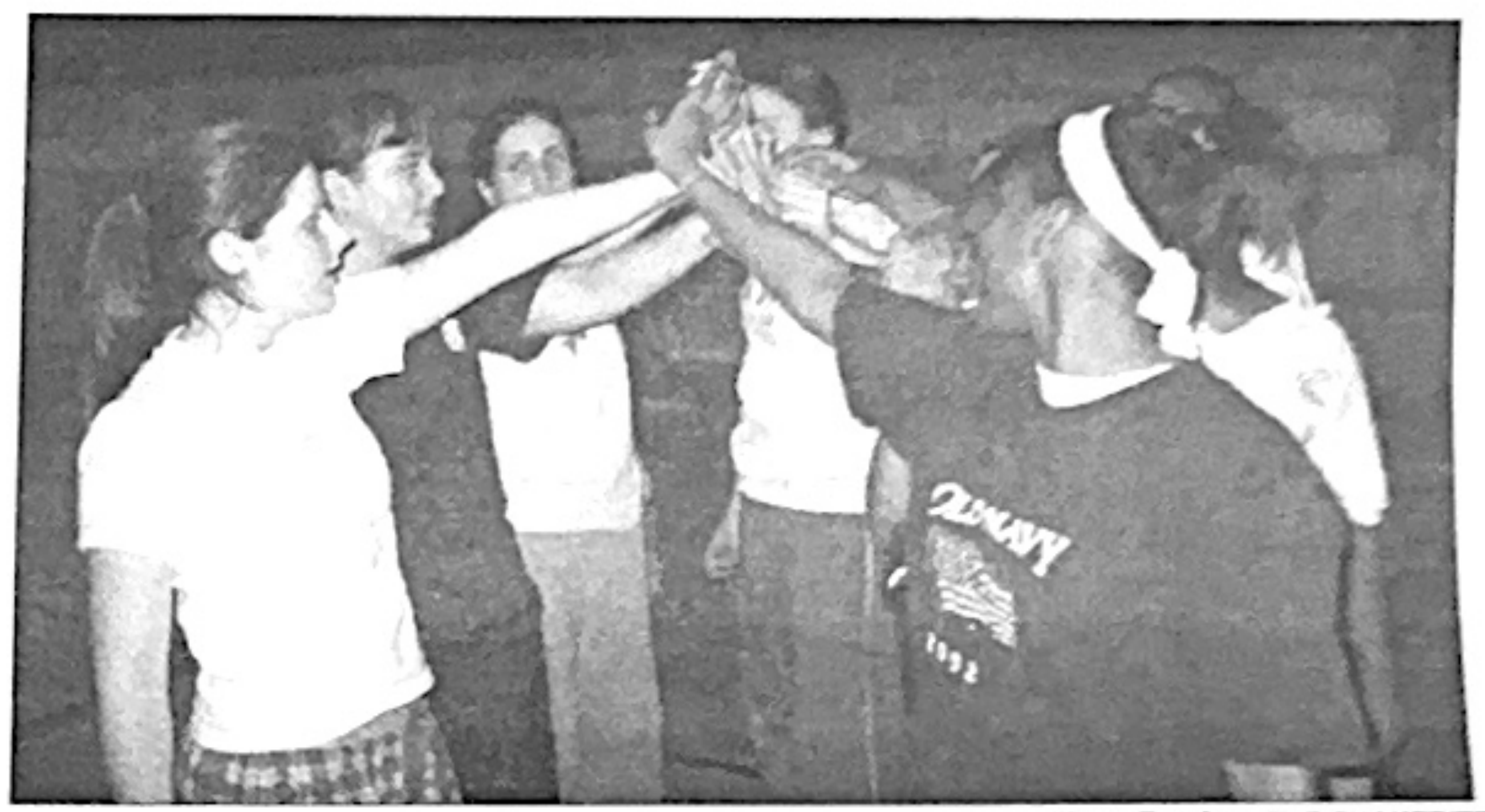
Sophomore softball player Amanda Artman thinks a good captain is not afraid to tell her what she is doing wrong. "[Captains] can be like a second coach who you feel more comfortable around," she said.

Women's basketball head coach Denise Duncan said captains improve communication between coaches and the team. "They're the people who their teammates should feel comfortable going to when there's something going on," she said. But captains must find a balance to maintain a comfort level with teammates and still act as a "second coach."

"Sometimes when you're trying to discipline people... they think that you're trying to be bossy and tell people what to do and how to do it instead of help the team," said senior soccer and basketball captain Danesha Adams. "Some coaches like a captain that is willing to think of discipline actions for the players... and then some people are offended by that."

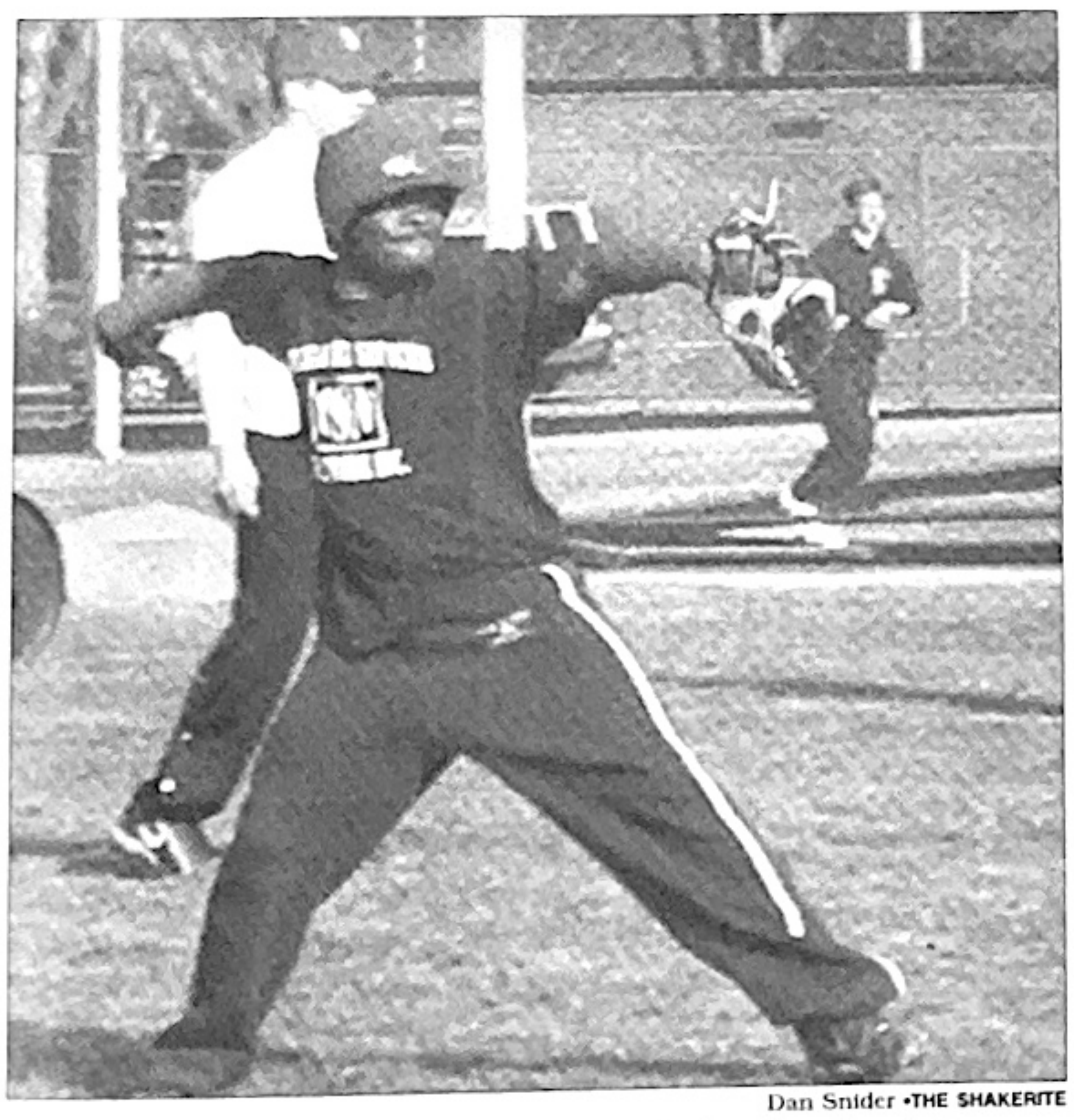
Schwartz said captain should pull players off to the side if a problem arises instead of addressing them in front of the whole team. "They might try to snap back and not really listen," Schwartz said, adding that disciplining should be corrective rather than critical.

But perhaps more than being a disciplinarian or setting an example, a captain's most important role is that of motivator. "Keep encouraging and let everyone know the game isn't over until the last whistle," Schwartz said.



Dan Snider •THE SHAKERITE

SOFTBALL PLAYERS, INCLUDING senior captains Caitlin Corrigan and Monica Ruzic, gather for a team cheer at practice March 10. "There are certain things that mean more when they come from peers, not adults," softball coach James Schmidt said of captains' roles.



Dan Snider •THE SHAKERITE

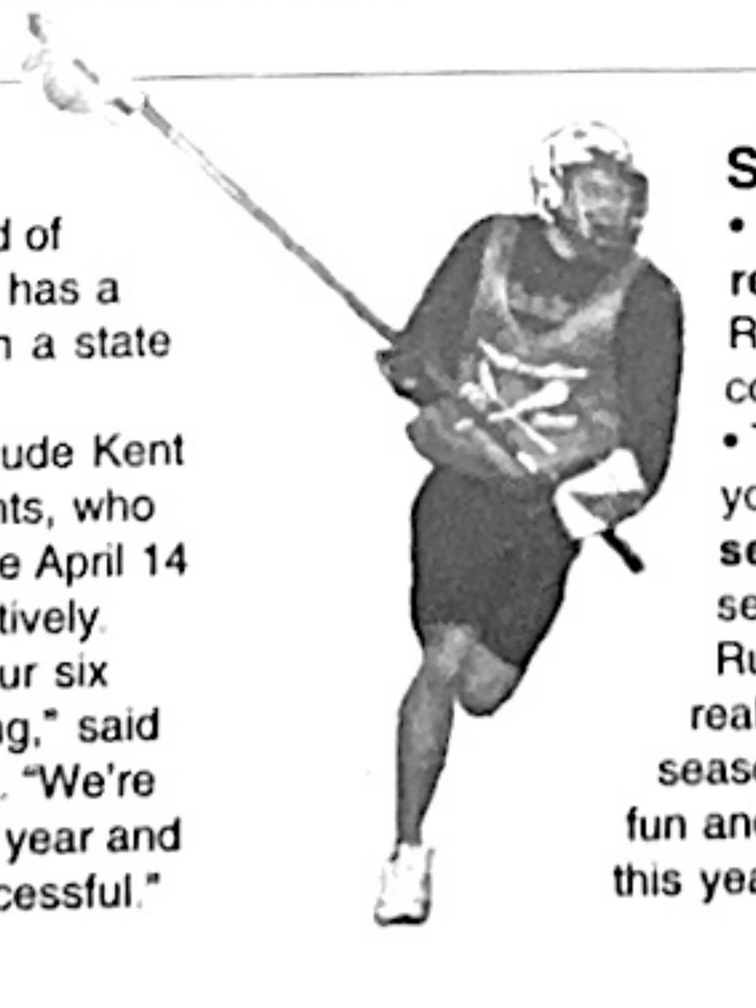
SENIOR CAPTAIN JERELL Johnson winds up before throwing during practice March 15. He has played four years on the varsity baseball team.

WOMEN'S LAX

- The team's goal is to ultimately **repeat** last year's victory at states, where they defeated Upper Arlington.
- They will be **led by** senior captains Ashley Wood, Mandy Kovach and Christina Senagore.
- "We have a really big team and we have a lot of **returning players** this season," said sophomore Emily George.

MEN'S LAX

- With Medina moved of their division,Shaker has a strong chance to win a state **championship**.
- Team **rivalries** include Kent and Cleveland Heights, who they will play at home April 14 and April 22, respectively.
- "We have five of our six defensemen returning," said senior John Mulligan. "We're more committed this year and should turn out successful."



SOFTBALL

- After a 4-18 LEL **record** last season, the Raiders hope to have a comeback season.
- Though the team is young, with only four **seniors** this season, senior captain Monica Ruzic is optimistic. "I feel really good about the season. So far it's a lot of fun and I hope we'll do better this year," she said.

MEN'S TENNIS

- Shaker has nine **lettermen** returning this season, all in the top nine of last season's team.
- They will be led by **captains** Paul Bixensteine, David Morgenstern and Owen Hearey, all seniors.
- St. Ignatius, Cleveland Heights and University School are their biggest **competitors** this season.

CREW

- The Raiders' most notable winter ergatta was the Hammer, when they took home 13 of 15 possible **medals**.
- They are led by senior **captains** Elisa Super and Amanda Whitman-Rush.
- Their first spring regatta will be the Hoover April 10.
- "We looked very promising during the fall and winter seasons," Super said.

Photos by Dan Snider •THE SHAKERITE

Television has become a window into the violence that results from teenage bullying and taunting. Although Hollywood may glorify this destructive pattern, it is reality. It is high school. It may be you.

The TERROR Of Taunting

Bullying: know the facts

•Definition: "[Bullying] can involve direct attacks (such as hitting, threatening or intimidating, maliciously teasing and taunting, name-calling, making sexual remarks, and stealing or damaging belongings) or more subtle, indirect attacks (such as spreading rumors or encouraging others to reject or exclude someone)," according to a pamphlet from the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center.

•Bullies: According to Teens 101. What You Need to Know About website, bullies do not have a typical appearance. Often, bullying is reaction to being bullied previously in an attempt to gain control and power in a difficult situation. Bullies attempt to raise their low self-esteem by gaining respect through fear from their peers.

•Effects: Bullying can have a wide range of effects on teenagers. Some feel tense, anxious or afraid as a result of this abuse. Depending on the severity of the situation, they may become withdrawn or self-conscious. If the bullying continues, the effects can increase to include long-term anger problems or severe depression.

The NYVPRC reports that long after bullying has stopped, adults who were bullied as teens have poorer self-esteem than other adults and have higher levels of depression.

Time-- 8:05 a.m. Weather-35 and windy Date-- March 24, 2004 City-- Shaker Heights, Ohio

As seen on TV...

Prime time shows exemplify how bullying can lead to violence, which may result in homicide or suicide.

Without A Trace: In one episode after a 12 year old boy vanishes, the detectives discover the horrible events that occurred in the 24 hours before his mysterious disappearance from school. A group of boys harassed him in the bathroom and a group of girls he admired humilated him by sending embarrasing pictures around the school. This bullying led him to attempt suicide in the backyard of his classmate's house.

Law and Order: A group of teenage girls who constantly bully other students turns on the leader of the pack, torturing and killing her. After the trial, a girl who had been the target of the group's efforts is relieved that her torment will end because the bullies are in jail. However, she finds that other bullies take up the cause, and she ends up killing another student in the school hallway.

Oprah: In a special called "Bullying Caught on Tape", Oprah Winfrey interviewed a middle school boy who endured years of bullying from his peers. One incident caught on tape reveals brutal physical and verbal abuse by his classmates. When he was asked if would resort to violence to end the bullying, he replied that he had thought about bringing a gun to school.

Bullies and violence in the news

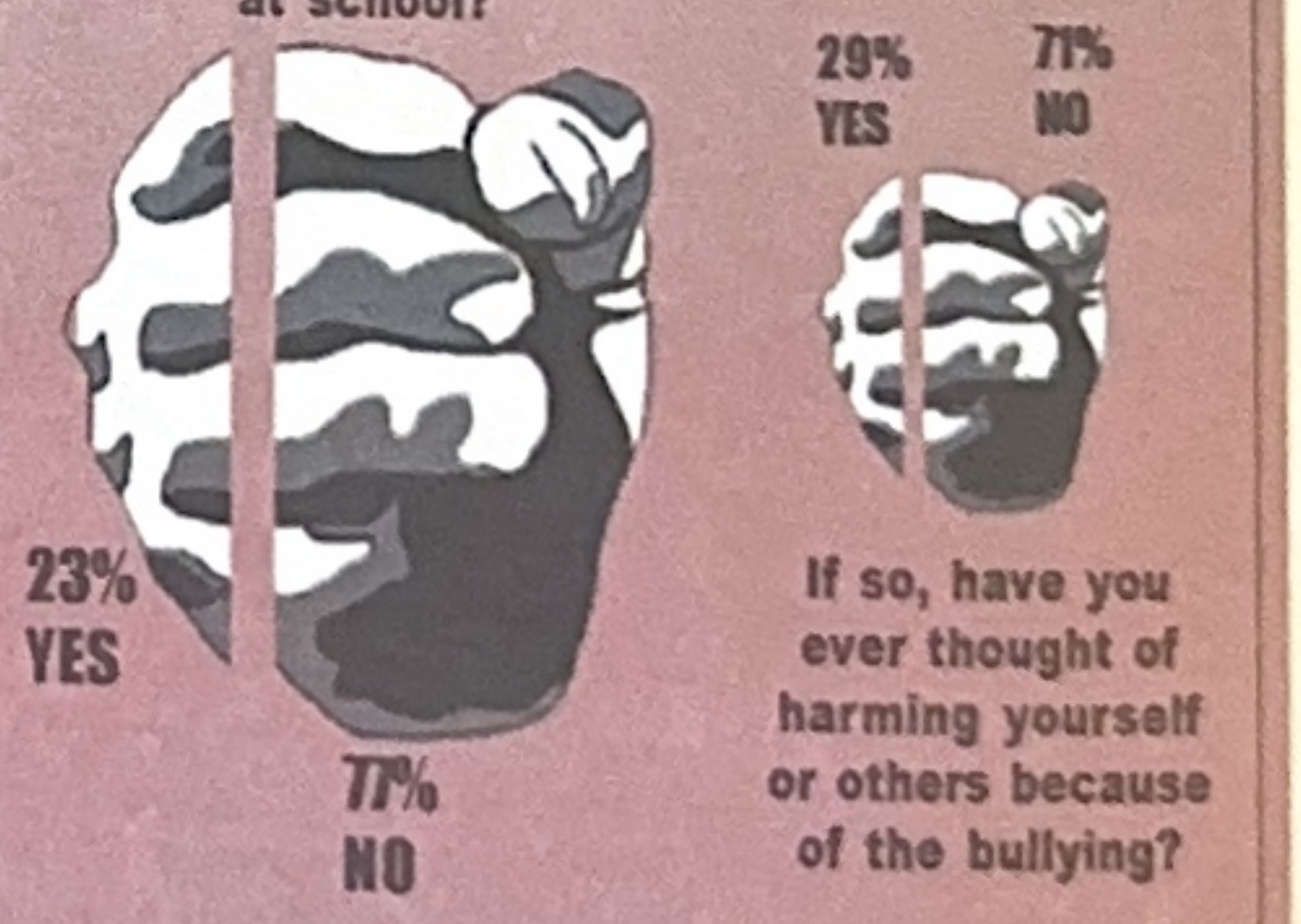
On July 14, 1993, **Bobby Kent** was brutally murdered by a group of his best friends because he bullied them. Eight years later, Filmmaker Larry Clark created a movie called "Bully" that was based on the horrifying incident.

Nineteen year-old **Matthew Shepard** died on Oct. 12, 1998, after being tied to a fence and savagely beaten by two men because he was gay. The Matthew Shepard Foundation has been established in his memory. It helps to raise awareness about issues involving discrimination and hate.

On April 20, 1999, a school shooting occurred at **Columbine High School** in Littleton, Colorado. Considered to be the worst in U.S. history, the tragedy occurred when two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, went on a rampage, killing 12 students and one teacher before killing themselves. Several reports suggest that the two boys executed this fatal plan because they felt that their classmates ridiculed them and treated them like outcasts.

SHAKER BULLYING

Have you ever felt like you were a victim of bullying at school?



If so, have you ever thought of harming yourself or others because of the bullying?

Scientific poll of 72 students with margin of error +/- 12 percent. Shakerite staff telephoned students.

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